STOURBRIDGE
CHRONICLE

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NEW LIDL STORE IS GIVEN GREEN LIGHT

LIDL has won permission to build a store in Kingswinford, despite fears that it could take trade away from the town centre.

Councillors backed plans of the budget supermarket chain to create the store on the Duckworth trading estate, in Stallings Lane.

by Heather Large

The new store will create 40 jobs.

The permission was granted despite objections from Midcounties Co-Operative, which has a store in Kingswinford High Street.

Bosses there feared the opening of a new supermarket could take shoppers away from the centre.

Competition

But councillors said this week that they believed the town was big enough for another supermarket.

They said the new store would provide 'healthy competition'.

There had been nine letters of objection to the plans, and five letters of support

In a letter to the council planning department, property consultant Richard Holmes, working on behalf of Midcounties Co-Operative, said the Lidl plans would 'affect the vitality and viability of Kingswinford town centre'.

Mr Holmes said: "It is inevitable that any store built away from the town centre must draw trade away from that centre. No account has been taken of the expansion of Morrisons."

But planning officers recommended the project be approved, and councillors backed the recommendation.

At a meeting of council planners, Councillor Colin Wilson admitted that he had been surprised by the application as Morrisons already had a store in Stallings Lane and was planning an expansion. But he added: "There is a large population there and I'm quite sure that both are sustainable."

Councillor Sue Roberts said: "It's only right that there is healthy competition."

The Lidl store will be built on land opposite Charterfield Drive, on the site of a furniture warehouse store.

A 70-space car park will surround the store with a new entrance off Stallings Lane.

Multi-million pound plans to demolish the Morrisons supermarket and replace it with a 40,000sqft development, creating 70 jobs, have already been approved by the council.

The schemes are just two of a number on the cards for Dudley borough.

Projects

Planners have approved three separate rival regeneration projects for Dudley town centre, which all include supermarkets.

They include the Porters Field project which will see Cavendish House demolished to make way for a modern store, and a stylish public piazza.

A separate plan for a supermarket to replace the office block has also been submitted by another developer.

Frankie's friends in poignant tributes

Frankie Warren

FRIENDS of a woman found dead in woodland in Sedgley have been paying their respects to their "perfect, beautiful Frankie" at the spot she was discovered.

Frankie Warren was found on land off Hickmerelands Lane last week after she went missing from her home in South Gloucestershire.

More than 100 people, many from Sedgley, joined in the search for her after police tracked her silver Honda Civic to the town.

Best friend Allie Strachan, aged 26, travelled with several friends from Thornbury to the spot Frankie was found to pay their respects.

She said: "We're devastated. Many of us are just struggling to come to terms with the fact she has gone."

"We want to say thank you to the people of Sedgley, we were overwhelmed by the support which came in for the appeal."

Police have taken away the abandoned car.

Luke set to return home

LUKE Walker is expected to fly home from Crete soon and begin the fight to clear his name.

He was convicted in Crete of causing grievous bodily harm, leading to the death of his 20-year-old girlfriend Chelsea Hyndman.

His father Patrick said the 10,000 euro – £8,522 – bail surety had been secured and the family could plan a return to Brierley Hill.

Luke's eight-year prison sentence was suspended when he lodged an appeal against conviction.

● Farce – Page 3

Musician's family hunts for pop classic

Musician Ray Deville on the keyboard

Lollipop singer Millie Small

Ray Deville, who died last month

THE family of a Black Country musician who played on hit song My Boy Lollipop with singer Millie Small, are searching for a rare UK copy of a 1964 LP to solve a long-held mystery.

Ray Deville, of Stourbridge, was a member of the Five Embers, the backing band of teenage singing sensation Millie back in the 1960s.

The musician, who died at Russells Hall Hospital on May 9, always told his family he had played the distinctive mouth organ part on the record.

But this has been disputed by others, including DJ and music expert Stuart Maconie, who believe another musician played the instrument.

Mr Deville's family now want to resolve the issue once and for all and are hoping to track down a UK copy of the My Boy Lollipop LP which contained a list of credits.

But their search has so far proved fruitless and they are hoping someone with the record will get in touch.

They are also trying to get in touch with Millie herself to see if she remembers Mr Deville playing on the record.

Tribute

Mr Deville's daughter Sarah Aston said: "My father was always very modest about his achievements as a musician and never talked up what he did.

"But he was always adamant he had played the well-known mouth organ part on the record and he wouldn't say that unless he had done so.

"Now there are a lot of versions of that record so it is possible he could have played on another version or that others played on different versions and have confused it with the famous one.

"As a lasting tribute to my father we want to solve the mystery once and for all, and we think the record credit would do that."

Father-of-three Mr Deville, of Clent View Road, Norton, shared the stage with the likes of The Kinks, The Rolling Stones, and The Hollies.

● Do you have a copy of the LP? Call our reporters on 01384 353205.

Rock star boost for wannabe musicians

YOUNG musicians in the Stourbridge area can rehearse and record their own tracks at a new studio set up with a little help from rock legend Robert Plant.

The former Led Zeppelin frontman donated recording equipment to the new Electric Mistress Studios, in Stourbridge Road, Lye.

It has been set up by Stourbridge musician Jimmy Rabone to help bands in the area.

The studio also aims to support solo singers in the community by creating backing tracks for them to use during live performances.

Mr Rabone, aged 34, of Stourbridge, who has performed in bands himself, and has known the rock legend for many years, said: "Robert has very kindly donated equipment from his own studio for us to use, which we are very grateful for."

"I have known him for a long time and he is always very supportive of up-and-coming musicians from the area.

"I am very pleased with the new studio. It has all the space we are looking for and allows us to offer top facilities to musicians in the area."

Youngsters who wanted to learn more about recording were welcome. For more details call Mr Rabone on 07712 241544.

Severn Trent refuses bid

WEST Midlands water giant Severn Trent has turned down a new offer from the consortium seeking to buy the business, valuing it at £4.96 billion.

Severn Trent's board, led by chief executive Tony Wray, said the fresh offer still undervalued the company, which supplies water to 7.7 million people.

The LongRiver Partners consortium made an approach last month, which was spurned. The new offer comes after Severn Trent revealed soaring profits.

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NEWS

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Pub chef caught planning to sell cannabis

A PUB head chef was caught with more than £1,000 worth of cannabis which he planned to sell for profit.

Richard Walker, aged 25, was at his home in Paxton Road, Lye, on January 27 when officers raided it and discovered skunk, a strong type of cannabis, in the living room and kitchen.

The street value of the drugs was estimated at between £1,175 and £1,675. A tin containing plastic bags and a list of names was also found in the raid.

Walker, who now lives and works at the Robin Hood pub in Rashwood in Droitwich, appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court after pleading guilty to possessing cannabis with intent to supply at an earlier hearing.

Sarah Allen, prosecuting, said: "Mr Walker accepted the drugs were his, he is not a user himself – he said he was giving it to his friends. He accepted he was dealing."

Hina Paw, defending, said Walker turned to drug dealing after finding himself in a desperate situation. She said: "He had just separated from his long-term partner, he had nowhere to live – he saw this as a way out of the situation he was in. He had only been doing it for a short amount of time. Now, he is a head chef working at pub, in full-time employment."

Walker was given a 26-week prison sentence, suspended for two years. He was put on a supervision order for 12 months and told to complete 180 hours of unpaid work. He was also ordered to pay £400 court costs.

Theatre company lands royal awards hat-trick

A STOURBRIDGE theatre group is celebrating a hat-trick of royal recognition after being awarded a special volunteering honour.

Side by Side Theatre Company will be presented with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service at a ceremony later this month, and volunteers from the group were invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace today (Thursday) to celebrate their achievement.

Side by Side was nominated for involving disabled actors and dancers in the performing arts and is regularly supported by 35 volunteers, who give their time to improve confidence levels and skills of the 30 cast members.

The company regularly performs at Stourbridge Town Hall and has scooped countless awards.

The cast has toured arts festivals and performed in Stratford last year as part of the Royal Shakespeare Company Open Stages project.

The Queen's Award is the third royal honour for the group in less than a year. Last November, group founder, 69-year-old Sue Wallin of Norton, was named a Diamond Champion by Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall at St James's Palace.

Sue went on to be made an MBE at Buckingham Palace earlier this year.

Accolade

She said: "It is fantastic that our work has been recognised and we are overwhelmed and delighted to be honoured with this prestigious award."

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest royal accolade given to voluntary groups.

The Side by Side production of Prodigal Son opens on June 26. Tickets are available from the Well Coffee Shop, High Street Stourbridge or by calling 07929 352239, and cost £8 (£6 concessions). The show runs until June 28 Details from sidebysidetheatrecompanystourbridge.co.uk

Shoplifter is given a suspended sentence

A PROLIFIC shoplifter with 140 convictions was given a suspended jail sentence after targeting two shops.

Stuart Round, 24, also breached an anti-social behaviour order banning him from Dudley town centre.

Round appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week after pleading guilty to theft, burglary, breaching the Asbo, and failure to surrender.

Sarah Allen, prosecuting, said that on February 8 Round, of Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, stole jeans worth £40 from River Island in High Street, and broke into Spar, in Abbey Road, Lower Gornal, and stole £2,923 of cigarettes and £61.

Wendy Miller, defending, said Round was now receiving help for addiction. She added: "He did not have much of a start in life."

He was given a 12-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, a three-month night curfew, a two-year supervision order, and he must carry out 200 hours' unpaid work.

Market place revamp is closer

An architect's impression of how the market in Dudley could look after the revamp

A £6.7 MILLION long-awaited revamp of Dudley's market place has moved a step forward after plans to move the Duncan Edwards statue and knock down an ageing town centre toilet block were lodged.

Four planning applications for the project were submitted for approval by Dudley Council, but chiefs are dependent on a bid for £2.6m from the European Regional Development Fund before work can start. The proposals developed in consultation with market traders, feature a newly-designed square with improved paving and lighting.

They include the repositioning of the Duncan Edwards statue to the other side of the market, at the New Street end.

It would replace an ageing toilet block and be enhanced on a raised stepped plinth.

A new public toilet would be opened at the former Walmsley's furniture store in Castle Street.

The council says the knocking down the toilet would open up views to and from the market place.

It is hoped work will start at the beginning of next year. Under the proposals, the Earl of Dudley statue, in Castle Street, would also be enhanced.

The Green Man sculpture above the archway to Green Man Entry, off Castle Street, would be replaced and lighting installed to illuminate the town centre's architecture.

Enhanced

The council's cabinet last month approved £4.1m of funding for the project. Councillors are now waiting on their bid for £2.6m to pay the remaining amount.

Councillor Judy Foster, said: "I am thrilled we are continuing to move forward with our exciting plans."

Traders welcomed the scheme but called for further talks to finalise the designs for the stalls.

Help plea in battle on drugs

POLICE have called on the community to help them in their war against drug dealers and admitted they need all the help they can get, as officers swooped on properties across the Black Country.

Five suspected drug smugglers were being quizzed following raids in the region. Houses and businesses in Walsall, Wolverhampton and West Bromwich were searched and cash and drugs were seized recently.

The raids were part of an investigation into the trafficking of drugs into the West Midlands and it is linked to the conviction of a West Bromwich woman Akeema Jones, formerly of Thynne Street, West Bromwich, last year after she was found with three kilograms of cocaine hidden in food packages, bound for the UK.

Detective Chief Inspector Simon Wallis, from the force's Gangs Task Force, said: "To succeed in the fight against drugs the police need all the help they can get. I urge people to come forward and report people they suspect to be involved in supply of drugs and those they suspect to be living beyond their means."

Benefits of bistro plan

PROPOSALS to transform an historic former fire station in Dudley into a bistro and bar will bring benefits to the town centre, according to a leading councillor.

Entrepreneurs Shakeel Zafar, aged 39, and Craig Willis, 40, are getting ready to take over the empty building in Priory Street.

The building, which was also previously Carvers Cafe before it closed in the 1990s, will be restored under the proposals.

Councillor Judy Foster, said the plans could be a good step forward to revamp Dudley.

Pets raise cash

MORE than £200 was raised for two animal charities at a microchipping event in Halesowen.

It was organised by Dudley Council and the RSPCA at Huntingtree Park where more than 40 dogs and cats were microchipped. For more information on microchipping call the RSPCA on 01299 861804.

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Gran to give all she has for fight

LUKE Walker's grandmother said she will do everything possible to help him clear his name.

Grandmother Betty Walker, aged 81, had been kept up-to-date on his plight in Greece more than 1,600 miles away at her terraced home in Cradley Heath.

Mrs Walker broke down when the news came of his conviction late on May 29.

But she has vowed to help her grandson, even scraping together her own savings to help pay his 10,000 euros (£8,552) bail surety so that Luke is free to return to his Brierley Hill home.

Precious

Until the bail money is posted, he has to remain in Crete, and he will have to travel back to Greece next year when his appeal will be held.

Fighting back tears, Mrs Walker said: "I'd do anything for him, just to have Luke home with his family and friends who love him.

"I'm going to give him the money. It doesn't matter to me. He is my grandson, that's all that matters."

Dozens of precious family photographs, including ones of Luke as a young child, adorn the walls of her neat home. Pictures of him grinning with his siblings and cousins and proudly sporting his school uniform are a constant reminder of happier times.

But even with her voice wavering, Mrs Walker says her courage has not been broken by the whirlwind developments in the Crete courtroom.

Devoted

She says Luke's conviction has only strengthened her resolve to see justice is done for her grandson.

"I would never believe that he could do something like that, because he was devoted to Chelsea," said Mrs Walker.

"There has been a lot in the newspapers and on the television. I've been speaking to Patrick [Luke's father] just to find out what has been happening. It has been tough but even tougher for them out there.

"He is innocent, and he has got a loving family that is there for him and supports one another. We are all behind him."

The family have been staying in rented apartments near the court in the Cretan capital of Heraklion.

Family selling home to pay legal fees

LUKE Walker's parents are putting their family house up for sale to help pay for mounting legal bills in their battle to prove he is innocent.

As 25-year-old Luke was preparing to fly home to the West Midlands, his father, speaking from Crete, revealed their Brierley Hill home must go on the market.

Luke was convicted of causing grievous bodily harm, leading to the death three years ago of his 20-year-old girlfriend Chelsea Hyndman on Crete.

An eight-year prison sentence imposed by the court was suspended when he immediately lodged an appeal against conviction – on condition that he raises 10,000 euros (£8,552) bail surety within 10 days. Until the bail money is posted he has to remain in Crete.

But he was hoping to be able to come home soon after his 81-year-old grandmother, Betty Walker, pledged to donate as much as possible of the bail cash needed.

Patrick Walker and Luke's mother, 61-year-old Lindy, have already remortgaged their Brierley Hill home – but the 'for sale' sign will soon be up outside. Mr Walker, aged 57, who runs Walker's Electrics, said: "We will rent somewhere in the area.

"Selling our house will pay our debts off and the £15,000 to £20,000 will pay for this next trial.

"It will allow us to work without having to constantly pay off debts. I don't want to sell my house – but it's three years on and we have to keep going to prove Luke is innocent."

The case has already cost the family around £300,000 in legal bills and travel expenses for themselves and court witnesses as they fight Luke's case.

The Walkers had already remortgaged their home and family and friends have rallied over the three years since Luke's arrest to organise fund-raising events that have chipped in around £50,000 towards the fight.

It is expected that it could take a year before a new trial at the appeals court in Crete, with the legal bill still spiralling.

"He's not guilty, I know in my heart he's not guilty, " said Mr Walker.

Luke hits out at his 'farce' of a trial after conviction

LUKE Walker has slammed his murder trial in Crete as a farce – as he spoke of his devastation at being convicted of killing his girlfriend. He said: "I've got nothing to be ashamed of."

The 25-year-old from Brierley Hill, who has always maintained his innocence, has vowed to clear his name. He had denied murder but was found guilty of grievous bodily harm, leading to the death of 20-year-old Chelsea Hyndman. He said the court case was a shambles, with judges laughing and one juror falling asleep.

"The fight to clear my name is not over," he added. Luke, who works with his father Patrick's electrical company, said he had been devastated by the verdict. "I'm lost for words," he said.

He had waited three years for his case to come to court but it took a jury 20 minutes to make a decision about the rest of his life.

Luke was convicted at the conclusion of the case, which ended in a 14-hour session lasting until 10.30pm.

Luke was initially charged with murdering Chelsea in the party town of Malia, Crete, where they lived together, but the allegation was downgraded to GBH leading to death.

Injuries

The court sentenced him to eight years in jail but when he immediately lodged an appeal, the term was suspended to await a new hearing, which could take a year.

The trial heard that Chelsea, of Castleford, West Yorkshire, died after she was taken to hospital with abdominal pains. She died on May 17 2010 from acute peritonitis, having suffered deteriorating health for days. Greek prosecutors claim she was beaten by Luke. The defence team said the injuries must have been caused when she fell on a cobbled street.

Court had no evidence for decision says lawyer

THE lawyer of Luke Walker says the court heard no evidence to justify the decision to convict him.

Athens attorney Georgios Pyromallis is now preparing the appeal, but he warned it could be a year before it is heard.

Speaking from Crete, Mr Pyromallis said: "The only explanation I can give is that the court reached a verdict based on what they believed – not what was proven.

"This was disappointing. Luke thinks it is unfair – but after all he was allowed to return home with a deposit of 10,000 euros.

"He is already free to return but must find the bail deposit within 10 days."

Mr Pyromallis explained the appeals court could acquit Walker, reduce his sentence or convert some or all of it to a fine.

Mr Pyromallis said after the hearing: "Although we have a different procedure in Greece the standard for a fair trial is the same in Greece as in the UK.

"And no, I don't think this was fair."

Family on the hunt for internet 'troll'

Convicted Luke Walker with his dad Patrick Walker hunting down internet 'troll'

Chelsea Hyndman

The Walker family home in Brierley Hill, is to be sold

CONVICTED killer Luke Walker and his father are on the hunt for an 'internet troll' they suspect of writing 'fake' letters to a Greek court, helping to convince jurors to find him guilty.

West Midlands Police are likely to be asked to probe whether a 'troll' who plagued a Facebook site protesting Luke's innocence is the same person who wrote to the court in Crete. Luke and his father Patrick, from Brierley Hill, think that a 'Peter Rogers' and a woman identified only as 'Jessie' – alleged authors of documents produced in the trial – are the same person.

And, if they can prove the letters were forged or faked, they hope it will help to swing an appeal court to overturn the jury's verdict that 25-year-old Luke was guilty of grievous bodily harm, causing the death of his girlfriend Chelsea Hyndman, aged 20, in Crete three years ago.

Letters

Mr Walker, 57, who runs Walker's Electrics in Brierley Hill, said: "We've got an idea that both letters were from the same internet troll, who we think is a woman.

"She was trolling when the Facebook site was up and she started being aggressive. I can't remember what exactly she said – it was just malice, things about Luke and Chelsea."

Organisers of the site later removed the comments made by the troll – a term for a person who leaves malicious or inflammatory statements on websites.

NEWS in brief

Cash boost for museum work

THE Black Country Living Museum has had £500 donted to its learning programme.

Phil Pemble gave the money to the museum on behalf of Pertemps People Development Group, saying the museum was vital in preserving the region's heritage.

Mr Pemble said: "Everyone is fascinated to learn all about the past, in particular how people made a living and how their personal contributions led to the immense success of the Black Country."

Virgin to create 3,300 extra seats

MORE than 3,300 extra seats a day are to be available on trains between the West Midlands and Scotland.

An overhaul of Virgin Trains' timetable in December will provide a direct link between Sandwell and Dudley and Scotland. It will mean the first direct trains from Scotland to Birmingham Airport in six years.

Twenty-four of the 28 Scottish services that start or terminate in Birmingham will be extended to London Euston.

Air ambulance volunteer plea

HELP is needed to raise money for the Midlands Air Ambulance.

The service has 80 volunteers, but with dozens of fundraising events, talks and cheque presentations each week, the fundraising team is looking for more supporters.

Contact the charity's volunteer co-ordinator, Alison Hill on 0800 840 2040.

Call for students to donate goods

UNIVERSITIES across the West Midlands have teamed up with British Heart Foundation shops to launch a scheme to get students donating unwanted items.

For more information call Catherine Argyle on 07775 027325 or email argylec@bhf.org.uk. To find foundation shops visit bhf.org.uk/shops or call 0844 412 5000.

Rubbish blaze

RUBBISH was set alight in an arson attack on a disused factory building in Stourbridge. Firefighters were called to the former Cox Hire site, in Birmingham Street, on May 29.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THERE is a world of difference between artificial intelligence and the real thing. As my email system has been playing up recently, I asked our IT experts to "do the electronic equivalent of rodding the drains", quick as a flash, my email program identified my need, reached into cyberspace and grabbed this advert: "Drains unblocked from £25. No call out fee. OAP discounts."

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

IT'S hard to define that old expression about somebody's face being a picture. But on Springwatch (BBC2), as Chris Packham described the curious mating habits of slugs, which sometimes involve biting off their own sex organs, Michaela Strachan's face, frozen somewhere between horror and hysteria, was an absolute picture.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

"THE last time I see genuine equality was around 3,500 years ago in the Bronze Age." Gorgeous, pouting TV historian Bettany Hughes complaining that she is judged on her looks, not her skills.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

I REFERRED recently to the horrors of camping. A reader recalls camping with an old chap who coped with the problem of an over-active bladder by means of a plastic funnel attached to a length of rubber tubing outside the tent. His pals tied a knot in the end of it, which apparently caused much cursing in what are sometimes called the wee small hours.

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THE trouble with May was that it has been too cold, too hot, too calm, too blowy, too dry and too wet. I have a German friend who said he never understood why the Brits spent so much time talking about the weather – until he moved here.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

I SUGGESTED recently that the BBC should be funded from taxation instead of extracting its money by means of a vicious, clapped-out licence system. A reader asks: "What about people who don't watch the BBC?" Simple. Under my scheme, people who claim not to watch the BBC and therefore qualify for a tax break are invited to fill out the exemption form Gov23/3343/43/55444/Eng/Wales (2011-2014), omitting section 642 (vvi) (b) and subsections ii,iii,iv,xxi and xxxiv, plus the first 27 amendments in schedule XXV (excluding all sub-sections following the appeals procedure for Welsh-speaking Somalis). This exemption form, available on the first Friday after Michaelmas at your nearest harbour office, has to be completed in green ink and must be submitted no later than yesterday.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

THE Highland landscape cries out for a Barbour, green wellies and sturdy tartan socks. Yet in a dazzling photograph to mark the 60th anniversary of her coronation, Her Majesty poses in the tussocky turf of the Balmoral Estate wearing full formal dress including the sovereign's green velvet mantle and the Vladimir Tiara. The loyal monarchist within me rejoices at such a fine image. But I am ever so slightly reminded of those pictures of elderly ladies in nightdresses, striding among startled shoppers in the high street, to highlight the perils of dementia. The time to worry will be when HM opens Parliament in her wellies.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

"CRIME runs in families in the same way that being a doctor, teacher or lawyer does." So says Alan Goldsack QC, calling for babies of criminal families to be removed to better homes to save them from a life of crime. It would be a fascinating social experiment. But what if the kids, transplanted to decent, respectable homes, still drifted into crime? We might then have to accept that it's nature, not nurture, and that criminality is passed down families like blue eyes or ginger hair. I once interviewed an old copper who genuinely believed crime was in the genes.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

"PUT that ruddy light out!" As long as we hear those much-repeated words echoing around Warmington-on-Sea then Bill Pertwee, who played Warden Hodges in Dad's Army and died last week, will still be with us. His light may be out but the memories go on.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

£450,000 project to replace pipes

A £450,000 project to replace ageing water mains in part of Halesowen will swing into action at the end of the month, leading to road closures later in the summer.

South Staffs Water has apologised to residents in the Beecher Road area of Cradley for the likely disruption during the work, set to start on June 24. It says the scheme will reduce the risk of bursts and interruption of water supplies for more than 750 households in the Beecher Road area of Cradley. Traffic lights will be used on Colman Hill, off Drews Holloway, for two weeks from August 7. Tanhouse Lane and part of Chapel House Lane will be closed for three weeks from August 26 as the work progresses.

Wedding photographer John Cartwright, who lives in Tanhouse Lane, where he also runs his business, said: "We welcome the work, which obviously needs to be done to protect our future water supplies.

"We'll live with the disruption for a while, although it shouldn't cause any problems for my business."

The scheme will see cast iron mains, some of which are 80 years old, being replaced and the work is expected to last until the end of October. People affected by the first phase of the work will soon receive more details from South Staffs Water and those on the Beecher Road housing estate will get further information before the second phase begins.

Much of the work has been timed to take place during the school holidays to keep disruption to a minimum. Rachel Barber, South Staffs Water's customer services director said: "We apologise to residents and motorists for the disruption this is likely to cause."

Firm pledges to trade its way out of trouble

A TRANSPORT firm is to issue £2 million worth of shares to raise research cash and fend off a winding-up threat to its sister company, caused by a £70,000 VAT debt.

The High Court has given Parry & Associates, which launched Cradley Heath-based Parry People Movers Ltd, a further stay of execution of the bid by HM Revenue and Customs to close it down.

It now has until July 8 to pay off the VAT bill. Parry People Movers, which produced the Class 139 rail buses that transport 500,000 passengers a year across Stourbridge, recently had a revaluation that has added a total of around £2.4m to its balance sheet.

On the strength of that, bosses are planning to issue a further £2m worth of new Parry People Movers shares to be offered to its 200 existing backers as well as newcomers.

Parry & Associates has completed deals for up to £30,000 worth of machines for the construction industry in Ethiopia and Somalia. Chairman John Parry said: "Shareholders have rallied to loan money and we are trading ourselves out of the problem.

Research

"We are as confident as we can be in the success of the share offer and are proceeding with our research and development work."

The company is pressing ahead to produce a version of the rail bus that is double the size of the existing model, which carries 60 passengers.

It has been buoyed by a pledge of a £1m grant from a regional fund and a further £250,000 technology grant. But the company has to match the funding, and is raising it through the share offer.

The firm recently won a £700,000 rail bus order from Turkey and is hopeful of clinching a £1m deal in America. Mr Parry said: "We are gradually getting out of the mire – the people movers company is set for better things.."

He said that despite the attention on HS2, most passenger growth came from people using railways for local journeys.

Barrie gears up for marathon day trip

Barrie Williams, of Park Road West, Wollaston, near Stourbridge, who will be doing a 360-mile drive in one day for charity in his Hillman Aero Minx

A CLASSIC car enthusiast will fire up his 1934 Hillman Aero Minx to complete a 360-mile charity challenge in a day.

Barrie Williams will set off on his epic journey on June 12 or 13 starting in Penkridge before travelling to Liverpool and Grimsby then back to the starting point.

The 73-year-old retired teacher will be joined by his friend Robin Gray, aged 69, of Penkridge, who will be sharing the driving duties. Mr Williams, of Wollaston, Stourbridge first hit on the idea after hearing a motorcyclist had completed a coast-to-coast challenge and raised thousands for charity.

Cash from the event will be donated to the Leukaemia Unit Appeal which supports the Georgina Unit at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

Donation

A donation will also be made to the Crossroads Care charity, which helps to support carers and provide help for people who need it.

Mr Williams is a member of the Baden-Powell Guild's Stourbridge branch and Crossroads Care is the group's chosen charity this year.

He wanted to raise money for Russells Hall after being treated for appendicitis at the hospital two years ago.

His mother Florence Williams and sister Valerie Smith died of cancer which he is why he decided to donate the cash to the Georgina Unit. People can donate to the challenge at http://leukaemia-appeal-fund.webs.com

MP calls for fairer deal over force cash

A DUDLEY MP has written to a government finance chief demanding a fairer deal for cash-strapped police in the region.

Further government cuts to the West Midlands Police budget are feared with the limit expected to be slashed again by 2015.

Proposals outlined by Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander suggest a further 10 per cent cut to departmental budgets from 2015 will be enforced to help reduce Britain's debt.

It is expected that by 2015, the force will have lost about 2,500 police officer and staff positions because of government cuts, forcing savings of up to £126 million.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has joined Police Commissioner Bob Jones to demand the West Midlands gets a fair funding deal.

Mr Austin has written to Mr Alexander to urge him to reconsider the proposal and has tabled a series of Parliamentary questions.

"West Midlands Police has already had £126million taken out of its budget and we've seen police stations closed and officers with 30 years experience retired."

£175,000 for ex-framers

A FORMER picture framing shop in West Bromwich town centre has been sold for £175,000.

Smiths Gallery in High Street, which closed last year with the loss of four jobs after 52 years in business, has been bought by a local investor who intends to restore the double unit to its original state of two separate retail outlets. The buyer plans to convert the upper parts to residential use.

Gallery owners Patricia and David Cooke had said it was no longer viable to keep the store running due to dwindling trade.

Cycle challenge

PEOPLE are being urged to get on their bikes for a hospice which helped a family from Kingswinford. The Severn Valley Cycle Challenge is taking place in Bridgnorth on August 18 to raise money for Acorns Children's Hospice.To find out more call 0844 984 0405.

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£1.6m bid for more high needs education

THREE bids totalling more than £1.6million to fund an extra 130 school places for pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities in Dudley borough will be lodged.

Council bosses have given the go-ahead to plans to submit applications to the Education Funding Agency.

They want to increase the amount of high needs education for students aged 16 to 19, in the borough.

They want to create new places at Pens Meadow Special School, in Wordsley, Stourbridge College and Dudley College.

A total of 235 spots will be created and it is hoped that funding from the Education Funding Agency will cover the costs.

The council is applying for £592,000 to provide 45 places for over 16s at Pens Meadow. A former hospital building near the site would be transformed into classrooms.

A £540,000 grant would be used for an independent living unit for 150 students at Stourbridge College.

The council hopes to secure £516,000 to refurbish a building at Dudley College to provide 40 places.

Dudley's education chief Councillor Tim Crumpton said the plans were based on evidence of growing numbers of young people with learning difficulties and disabilities in Dudley's schools.

Success has zone flying Green Flag

AN environment zone in Dudley has become the first centre of its kind in the West Midlands to receive a top award.

The centre, at Roberts Primary School, Lower Gornal, has received a Green Flag following a visit by assessors from Keep Britain Tidy.

It honours centres which work towards helping the environment by monitoring its use of energy and proving it is sustainable, clean and well-maintained.

The Environment Zone has been enjoying a double celebration after it also successfully renewed its Quality Badge from the Learning Outside the Classroom scheme.

Derelict war memorial club is flattened

Report by Lee Watton

A DERELICT former war memorial club, which has been a magnet for vandalism and anti-social behaviour for more than a decade, has been demolished.

Bulldozers have moved on to the site of the former Stourbridge War Memorial Club in Amblecote High Street, reducing the heavily-damaged building to rubble.

Plans have been submitted to Dudley Council by Bains Builders Ltd to build four houses on the site once it has been fully cleared.

The scheme has not yet received approval, but an authority spokesman said no objections had been received. A delegated decision is expected to be made on the plans rather than going before the council's development control committee for discussion.

Before the building was torn down, work took place to clear the rear of the site.

Councillor Pat Martin, who has long campaigned for a new use to be found for the land, said she was pleased to see work taking place at the site. "In some ways it is sad because it was once a very popular venue. However it is just not the right location for such a place now," she said. "The site has been disused for more than a decade and the building was in a ghastly condition. In my view the plan for the houses is the only development which would be suitable for the area because of its proximity to the A491.

Appropriate

"As it stands, only the residents will be coming in and out of the development during the day and that will only be at certain times.

"A restaurant or other venue of the kind would just not have been appropriate."

If approved, the new houses would be brick built with the style designed to be in keeping with existing properties in the area.

The applicant had originally planned to build four homes for young adults but withdrew the application amid concerns over the amount of traffic that would be entering and leaving the site.

The former club building has suffered vandalism, fire and weather damage since it closed in 2002.

The site was on the market for three years and had a guide price of £175,000.

Tragic mother backs new moves to tackle asthma

THE mother of an eight-year-old boy who died after suffering an asthma attack has welcomed a new drive by health chiefs to keep a closer eye on youngsters with the condition.

The plans, by Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), are aimed at preventing tragic deaths of youngsters like Owen Jeremy and Brandon Bird, both of Wordsley.

Owen, of Primrose Hill, who enjoyed football and swimming, died on May 24 last year when he went into cardiac arrest in hospital after suffering an asthma attack at Fairhaven Primary School. Brandon, of Rushall Close, died after a chronic asthma attack in April 2011, just five days short of his eighth birthday.

The CCG has drawn up new guidelines to ensure patients are followed up for treatment. And Owen's mother Rowena has described the move as 'fantastic'.

Owen Jeremy

Chief quality and nursing officer at Dudley CCG Rebecca Bartholomew said: "We see this work as a top priority for us to ensure that we have no further tragic deaths of young people."

Children who need urgent attention will now be flagged up by doctors so they and their parents can be given more advice on how to control their condition. A system is also being put in place so doctors can ensure children with asthma do not miss appointments.

The asthma in schools policy has been revised so teachers know what to do when a child needs an inhaler. There is also guidance on when to call an ambulance.

Mrs Jeremy, of Clock Tower View, Wordsley, said: "It's fantastic that the CCG is doing this. It's positive that they are reviewing their policy, although I don't know if what they are doing would have made a difference in Owen's case."

She said staff at Fairhaven Primary School knew what to do if her son had an attack. Anyone concerned about their asthma management should contact their GP.

Centre's anniversary party fit for a queen

Getting in the tea party mood are, from left, Evelyn Yorke, Freda Darby and Dennis Eaves, chairman of the community centre

REVELLERS put out the flags to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation.

Sedgley and District Community Centre invited people to come to a very British tea party on Saturday, for dancing and singing.

Party-goers were able to sing along to patriotic anthems including Land of Hope and Glory and Rule Britannia, and dance away the afternoon, with music by keyboard player Tony Roberts, from Stourbridge.

The revellers were are urged to wear red, white and blue and bring along flags to the community centre, in Ladies Walk, Sedgley.

Proceeds from the event are going towards the centre's building fund, which pays for maintenance.

Fundraiser Evelyn Yorke, aged 75, who lives in Sedgley, said: "I'm a big royal supporter and think the Queen's lovely.

"We wanted to celebrate the 60th anniversary of her coronation and hope everyone had a good time. We always need work done to our building and, because it's not owned by the council, we have to raise the money ourselves – so we thought this was a good opportunity for us, as well as celebrating such a landmark anniversary."

Evelyn was 15 and living in Fallings Park, Wolverhampton, at the time of the coronation, although she says she cannot remember it happening.

She and her husband, Ray, who have been married for 54 years, enjoy attending sequence dances in West Bromwich and Cradley.

NEWS in brief

Drama as blaze breaks out on bus

FIREFIGHTERS tackled a fire on a bus in Pensnett after the engine set alight.

Crews from Brierley Hill were called to the blaze near The Fox and Grapes pub in High Street last week. The driver raised the alarm after seeing smoke coming out of the engine compartment of the single deck bus.

There were no passengers on the bus at the time as it was returning to the depot in Brierley Hill. Part of High Street was closed during the fire.

In the swing for charity golf day

MORE than 80 golfers are expected to attend a charity day in aid of breast cancer charities.

The event is organised by Wordsley man Simon Grubb whose wife Karen is a breast cancer sufferer.

At the event there will be a barbecue, a raffle, face-painting and putting for the children, and professional golfers Darren Prosser and Keith Wheeler.

It is at Halfpenny Green Golf Course, Kartar Farm, New Road Swindon, Dudley, on July 13 from 8am. For details call Mr Grubb on 07815 072 866.

£150, 000 up for grabs in contest

FRONTLINE care staff can gain up to £150,000 funding as part of a new initiative to reform the way people with dementia are cared for.

In a bid to simplify dementia care provision, the NHS has launched a national competition for ideas from staff and volunteers. The NHS Innovation Challenge Prize for Dementia aims to redesign services.

Guitar group hits £1,200 right notes

A GUITAR group Halesowen pulled some strings to raise more than £1,200 at a recent concert, for the Multiple Sclerosis Trust.

Frankley Guitar Club's effort was inspired by MS sufferer Jane Dunham, aged 56, of Wolverley, near Kidderminster, sister-in-law of member Phil Beasley.

Open day date

THE University of Wolverhampton will hold an open day next week. Potential students who go along on June 15 between 10am to 3pm will be able to tour the campuses and meet staff.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW WITH MARK ANDREWS

SO, after the coldest spring in 51 years, the sunshine has finally put in an appearance.

And where better to spend a sunny Saturday than with a trip to the public refuse tip?

For somewhere you go to dump your rubbish, the tip is a surprisingly image-conscious environment, and one of the last bastions of unadulterated, old-fashioned machismo.

First of all, there has been a raging debate about what one actually calls such attractions.

The moment you roll up at one of these places, there is an acute sensation that everybody is running the rule over you: what you are wearing, what you are driving, and what it is that you have brought to the party. Here, the seasoned pros can spot the bank-holiday DIY-er from a thousand paces.

It helps, of course, if you have the right wheels.

A huge black pick-up truck, preferably with gleaming chrome and garish go-faster stripes is just the job. But if you don't have such a vehicle to hand, and haven't yet bought sufficiently into the Civic Amenities lifestyle to justify the purchase, there are other ways of pulling off the right look.

An A-Team style van is probably trying a touch too hard, but any big 4x4 is good, ideally coated with a liberal spraying of mud.

Rugged

Think well-used Mitsubishi Shogun, Land Rover Discovery and you won't go far wrong, or maybe a large Lexus or BMW X5 if you want to create an air of rugged affluence. But turn up in a Barbie-pink Suzuki and you're just asking to be laughed at.

And, from personal experience, lifting your rubbish from the back seat of a soft-top will result in stares of withering contempt.

It goes without saying that a high visibility vest is de rigueur if you're to blend in, but don't ever wear a shirt underneath it – it will only hide your tan.

Okay, a T-shirt is just about acceptable in winter, but only when it falls below freezing.

And while most waste reception sites do not actually allow builders to dump their commercial waste, a hard hat will boost your cred no end.

And how will you know if you've got it right?

Well there is one simple test. If a member of staff approaches you to check whether you know where to dump your mattress, you've still got plenty to learn.

People checking out the variety of well-stocked stalls

Steve Fenemore who stocks military memorabilia says trade is growing

Marty Street benefited from incentive scheme with his Cartoon Workshop

Adrian Davies sells clothing and his own sculptures

Allsorts of appeal for vintage lovers

As many traders are struggling those in the Antiques Avenue are reporting brisk business as **WILL ACKERMANN** reports

MANY of Wolverhampton's market traders may be struggling along with independent business owners nationwide, but one group appears to be bucking the trend.

Shopkeepers in the indoor market's antiques aisle, called Antiques Avenue, say they are riding the crest of a demand for trendy vintage products.

The row of about a dozen shops is a treasure trove of quirky items you won't find in conventional stores – from handmade alien sculptures to wartime memorabilia.

Danny's Allsorts, for example, opened in the Salop Street venue 20 years ago. Its name goes some way towards explaining the eclectic variety of goods inside.

Community

And owner Danny Lyner-Jones, aged 54, believes the market remains at the heart of the city all these years on.

He says: "Without markets like ours every city in England would look identical. That's why we attract people from all over the world and all walks of life. The market is all about community, and this market is the heart of ours."

But recently two long-running stalls in the indoor market were forced to close because of dwindling footfall and increasing rents.

The demise of biscuit and cake seller J Phillips and confectionary store Treats N Sweets is a cause for concern even among some of the relatively well-off vintage traders.

Steve Fenemore, who opened military memorabilia and antiques stall Blackfish in February last year, says his trade is growing but admits everything is not all roses.

Although he has not been there long, the 49-year-old from Walsall can see that footfall is not what it should be.

Danny Lyner-Jones has an eclectic variety of goods on offer

He says: "There's a definite trend for vintage at the moment, 1970s kitsch stuff in particular. I stock some really weird and unusual stuff and I find that sells really well.

"Don't get me wrong, there are bad times. It's like that in business in general. Everyone has bad weeks. I have more good ones than bad though.

"I love the market, but what's wrong with it is the that some traders seem to think they've got this God-given right that people should come in and buy off them. It doesn't work that way. You have to move with the times."

Despite his relative success, Mr Fenemore hopes to move out of the market soon and open a shop in the city centre.

The former security guard, whose father ran an antiques shop in Walsall, says: "It's just a natural progression.

"I do love it here. I certainly won't be leaving because the market's rubbish.

"But the thing that hinders us is when you come out of the Mander Centre all the buildings are derelict. It loses us a certain amount of trade but it's not the total cause. There are a lot of different factors."

Chief among those raised by many, from both Antiques Avenue and elsewhere in the market, is that new traders setting up shop are given their first three months rent-free. Furthermore, many of the traders say some are abusing the system by leaving the market after that period ends and returning soon after to claim another free term.

But portrait painter Marty Street, who benefited from the scheme when he launched Cartoon Workshop, says it is a worthwhile incentive, provided people don't misuse it. And while he admits trade could be better, he says he is behind the market for the long-haul.

Mr Street, aged 50, of Walsall, says: "We are not doing badly and we are all happy to stay here as long as the market is around for.

"We are pretty proud of all this and if they ever move us they can move us all together. I think it's an original mixture of stores and the Antiques Aisle is doing better than most. Vintage is right on trend because there's people my age going through a second childhood."

Escapism

Adrian Davies, who opened Hydrophinium in February, selling his own sculptures and clothing among other quirky items, believes the trend is down to a fundamental shift in society.

"I think what's happened is the way society's changing people are beginning to reject the mainstream and they find variety in vintage," says Mr Davies, aged, 47, of Whittaker Street, Parkfields.

"It's escapism really. People find nostalgia in it. I've been coming to this market since the 1980s and I've seen many changes," he adds. "It's quieter now than it was then. People have to watch their pennies more nowadays.

"You also tend to find the antiques section has kind of lost a bit of support since it moved upstairs about four years ago.

"I found trade a bit slow here to begin with, but I think when the sun comes out a lot of people are more willing to come here.

"I'm not turning a profit yet, but for the amount of time I've been here I'm not doing too badly."

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A WOLVERHAMPTON schoolboy was celebrating after being called up to play chess for England. Ten-year-old Dean Whitehouse, a member of Bushbury Chess Club, was one of 40 children picked to represent his country in a challenge match against Scotland.

THE Black Country became a tourist trap as coach loads of visitors took a close look at the history of the area. For a £65 fee tourists from all over the UK spent a weekend enjoying a series of excursions aimed at promoting the region's heritage.

PASSENGERS were taken back in time on an historic bus journey between Dudley and Stafford. The 1969 Daimler Fleetline travelled a long-discontinued route through Tipton, Walsall and Cannock, stopping at all of the original bus stops along the way.

1993...

A KINGSWINFORD bakery cooked up a gigantic bloomer to mark National Bread Week. The Wheatmill Bakery, in Lapwood Avenue, invited customers to guess the weight of the lavish loaf to raise money for charity.

TWO golfers from Cannock were recovering in hospital after being struck by lightning as they sheltered from storms. Don Spring was hurled through the air and Stephen Lloyd temporarily paralysed during the freak accident at Druids Heath golf course in Aldridge.

DRIVING instructors all over the West Midlands were backing the Express & Star's campaign to give P-plates to all newly qualified drivers. The newspaper printed more than 8,000 green and white P-plates in an effort to increase road safety awareness.

2003...

THE tireless community work of a good samaritan earned her a top title within the Wolverhampton voluntary sector. Thelma Fish, aged 74, was named Volunteer of the Year after 38 years of dedicated service within the Portobello community.

HOLLYWOOD superstar Jeff Goldblum visited the Showcase Cinema at the Castlegate leisure complex in Dudley to preview his latest film, Igby Goes Down. The actor flashed a mischievous smile as he asked onlookers: "Is that a real McDonald's?"

THE Bishop of Wolverhampton attempted to learn about some of the difficulties faced by blind people by walking around the city centre blindfolded. The event was organised by bosses from the Beacon Centre for the Blind to encourage more people to raise funds for the charity.

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LETTERS

Event was truly spellbinding

THOSE who attended Liverpool's week of events commemorating the Battle of the Atlantic would agree with the BBC's Dan Snow when he said: "Throughout history we have failed to transmit the horrors of war to subsequent generations".

To see a Royal Navy Swordfish, a veteran of the battle, fly along the Mersey and over the fleet flagship HMS Bulwark will be a memory never to be forgotten.

To sit spellbound in Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and listen and watch the Band of the Royal Marines perform with awesome precision their astounding repertoire, and to stand with thousands of men, women and flag-waving children on the banks of the Mersey as a Spitfire, a Hurricane and helicopters roared above, will remain in the mind's eye forever.

While our prime minister David Cameron and his family sipped wine in Ibiza, two thousand invited guests in the presence of The Princess Royal and a host of Merchant Navy, Fleet Air Arm, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, and Royal Fleet Auxiliary and civic dignitaries and their families took part in a service of commemoration in Liverpool Cathedral.

The other hero of the week was Liverpool – a maritime city, a great city, a truly British city, where humour and wit brush side by side with pride in their city.

The simply amazing Liverpool taxi drivers helped, directed and often went the extra mile for all their visitors.

Thank you Liverpool and thank you Dan Snow for your amazing BBC coverage.

As a proud Scot, and daughter of proud Glaswegians – I salute you.

SALLY MUNRO BARTON,
Stourbridge.

Hope that Fergie has a happy retirement

AS a football fan for over 70 years who's supported the Albion for most of those years, I used to have as a lad a soft spot for our local rivals Wolves.

The games against Man United are the ones I remember most as they always play attacking football.

Sir Alex Ferguson's last game as manager of United couldn't have been a better one with a score of 5-5. It was a game the likes of which hadn't been seen before.

On his retirement, Sir Alex will now be able to spend more time enjoying his second love, that of horse racing which is the sport of kings and queens.

I wish him a long and happy, healthy retirement, and that his horses run faster than mine.

JIM GRAINGER
Vicarage Road
Stourbridge

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Stourbridge Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Stourbridge.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

How can the HS2 be of national benefit?

I MUST add my thoughts to the present claim and counter-claim, regarding the long-term benefits for the economy of the country with the building of the HS2.

My understanding of being a "benefit" would be that of earning a great deal of money for the country from the rest of the world by the usage of this system. I cannot see how this could be.

So let us look at a few points; will other trains be able to use this line, which I understand, will be a special design for this purpose no junctions, no goods? If this is the case, all that it will achieve is to move a "train" from A to B in a shorter time than the present system. How will this create growth and business for the areas it runs through?

And while we are talking about speed in furtherance to this, what electronic wizardry will be available to our business in the next 10 – 20 years time, when you think of the advances in this field over the past 20 years. I know jobs will be created, but what jobs? It will be just another extension to an already over blown service sector, with no real profit making for the country.

B DOLMAN
Tividale

A theatre would see more use than zoo

HASN'T it dawned on the councillors that people usually only visit a zoo or museum once or maybe twice, whereas visiting the Hippodrome would be ongoing?

To call the town hall a concert hall is rubbish.

I have been to some excellent shows there but the seats downstairs are uncomfortable and the place doesn't hold enough people.

It annoys me that the views of the general public doesn't seem to be taken into consideration when decisions are made.

I am not surprised, however.

After all, it has been nearly 20 years trying to get speedway back in the borough to say nothing of the football/cricket ground we were promised.

J HILL
Dudley

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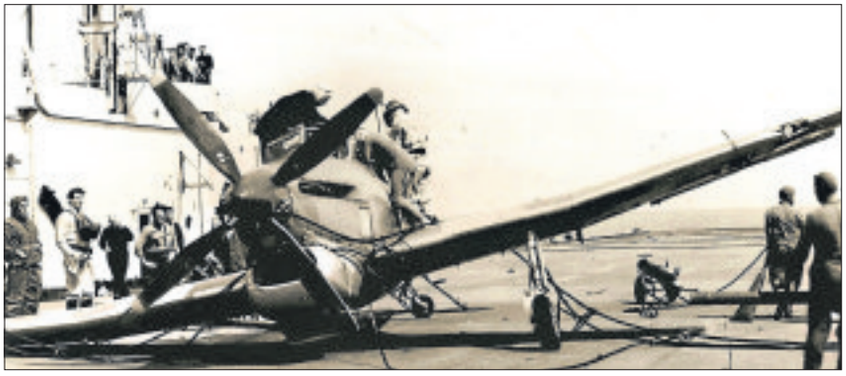

Aircrew gather around a Sea Balliol after it suffered an undercarriage collapse landing on an aircraft carrier

A Balliol – an advanced trainer – is seen here being test flown from Pendeford

A Balliol preserved in the Sri Lankan Air Museum

The largest surviving part of an RAF Balliol, a cockpit being restored by Staffordshire Aircraft Restoration Team

Balliol brought end to aircraft building

by Alec Brew

ON 26th October 1954 the last aircraft ever made by Boulton Paul Aircraft flew for the first time.

It was a Sea Balliol, serial WP333 built for the Fleet Air Arm, and was also the last British aircraft to be powered by the famous Rolls-Royce Merlin engine.

This was the engine that had powered the Spitfire and Hurricane in the Battle of Britain.

Boulton Paul had been building aircraft since 1915, firstly in Norwich, and then, from 1936, at Pendeford.

At the end of April the factory at Pendeford was finally emptied ready for redevelopment and an era had come to an end.

The Balliol was an advanced trainer, originally for the Royal Air Force, and initially to be powered by a turbo-prop engine, a jet engine driving a propeller.

In fact, one of the prototypes was the first aircraft in the world to be powered by a single turboprop, but production versions were to be fitted with the trusty Merlin.

This was an engine Boulton Paul was to be fitting to aircraft longer than any other manufacturer, beginning with the first Defiant fighter in 1937, then the 1062 Defiants and 692 Fairey Barracudas during the Second World War.

It was followed with the Balliol, which, as yet another footnote to aviation history, was the last British piston-engined advanced trainer.

Boulton Paul hoped for orders for 700 Balliols, but in the end only 229 of all versions were built, as the Air Ministry decided to switch to an all-jet training syllabus.

The Balliol equipped one Flying Training School at RAF Cottesmore, and the RAF College at Cranwell, but after around three years was largely retired.

In fact 15 Balliols were scrapped before ever being issued to a unit.

Apart from the RAF and 30 for the Fleet Air Arm, which used them for rather longer, the only other orders for the aircraft were 12 for Ceylon, now Sri Lanka.

After WP333 was delivered the company switched to sub-contracting work, building parts for other aircraft, and the design and production of power control units, the sphere in which it was to specialise.

Now, even the factory where they were built is likely to disappear

The last surviving Sea Balliol is pictured at RAF Cosford

A Balliol in service with 288 Squadron, Royal Air Force – Boulton Paul had hoped to produce 700 planes but only 229 were made

ADVERTISEMENT

Denture troubles? Unable to live life spontaneously?

Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng) (GDC108353) with Denture Clinic manager Peter Brookes (GDC124429)

Your smile *is priceless*

THERE'S seemingly an impossible amalgamation between glamour and dentures, but these unlikely descriptive bedfellows are increasingly being thrown together at a ground-breaking Dudley clinic.

Under the watchful eye of denturist Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng), founder of the Denture Clinic, based in North Street, hi-spec prescriptions are helping turn back the hands of time.

Recently, the practice has undergone a major refurbishment, with three disciples – general dentistry (North Street Dental), implantology (Total Implant Solutions) and the prescribing and manufacturing of dentures (Denture Clinic) all under one roof.

Key to a £1m investment are two new ground-floor surgeries, an level main entrance at the rear, disabled-friendly facilities and a large car park with a drop-off point right outside the reception area. A champion for those who wear dentures, Steven has spent more than ten years campaigning to "break the taboo over false teeth."

He is evangelical about what new generation dentures can achieve.

"Dentures have traditionally never been associated with cosmetic makeovers, but our high-quality prosthetics have quite literally taken years off some of our patients," he said.

"People have come to us with ill-fitting dentures, sunken cheeks and pinched lips and we have been privileged to transform their looks. Can dentures be glamorous? Emphatically, yes.

"We are on the cusp of development, so that those who entrust their smile to us can be sure they will be advised on best options."

Steven's work has attracted people from all walks of life, including a former SAS mountain warfare specialist, an airline pilot, a multi-millionaire with his own jet, health professionals and "ordinary salt-of-the-earth people from the Black Country." The clinic's prosthetics, hand-crafted at laboratories at the Dudley and Wolverhampton practices, have also found satisfied patients from as far away as Spain and Portugal. And the secret of his success? A seamless service to clients, where clinical assessment and the crafting of prescriptions are all in-house.

"It's a simple formula," said Steven, "but it has allowed me to be fastidious about the quality and we will never compromise on best clinical outcomes."

He admitted that denture wearers are one of the most challenging groups to treat successfully.

"I believe many of them have had a bad deal for years, but we are in the vanguard of changing outcomes and hopefully changing some lives for the better too," said Steven.

Steven draws on more than 30 years' experience in all disciplines of dental technology to produce his hallmark "functional, natural-looking teeth."

Having completed his training as a dental technician and started his own laboratory, Steven enrolled on a three-and-a-half year CDT training course with the George Brown College in Toronto, Canada, to enable him to work in his dental discipline independently of a dentist.

Graduating with honours, Steven undertook a further year's study under the auspices of The Royal College of Surgeons.

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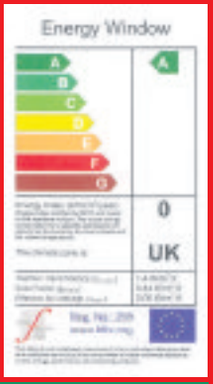

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Region's wildlife 'is under threat'

THE Black Country's wildlife is in trouble, according to the region's wildlife trust.

Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust says six out of ten UK species are in decline, according to a study by conservation organisations and volunteers.

The study is the first of its kind in the UK and reveals 60 per cent of the species studied have declined over recent decades with more than one in 10 in danger of disappearing.

Neil Wyatt, spokesman for the Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust said urban, woodland, grassland and heathland, fresh water and wetland species were under threat in the area. He added: "It is time for us to take action to save nature and we are calling on people to give their support. We need as many people as possible to engage with the Nature Improvement Area."

Couple sold counterfeit goods worth thousands from home

A COUPLE turned their home into a shop selling thousands of pounds of counterfeit clothes, jewellery and cosmetics, a court heard.

Wayne Hinton, aged 40, and Samantha Blizzard, 34, filled their three-bedroom house in Halesowen with £75,000 of fake designer items, and then sold them in a makeshift display room. The pair, who run Mollies Baguette Bar in Oldbury, were caught by trading standards officers after returning from a restocking shopping trip.

Among the 738 counterfeit items seized at the house in Astley Crescent were fake Adidas tracksuits, Superdry jackets, UGG and Hunter boots, Pandora bracelets, Monster headphones and GHD hair straighteners.

The pair appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court for sentencing after each pleaded guilty to 15 charges of possession of goods with false trademarks for sale or hire and 15 charges of offering and exposing for sale goods bearing a false trademark.

Geraldine Toal, defending Hinton, said the couple faced financial pressure after taking over the baguette bar. And Andrew Berry, defending Blizzard, said: "They were trying to make what money they could from the items. Clearly there was some profit, but it was at a low level."

Judge Robin Onions said the pair deserved immediate prison sentences, but because of the potential suffering for their three children and business he gave them each a 16-month prison sentence, suspended for two years.

They were also told to each do 250 hours' unpaid work. They could face financial punishment under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Concerns over motorway link

CONCERNS have been raised by an engineering team from the University of Wolverhampton over a planned motorway junction costing almost £40 million that will link the i54 site with the M54.

At a presentation at the institution's City Campus a group of scholars claimed the Staffordshire County Council-backed scheme will cause traffic disruption around junction 2 of the motorway.

Research from the students also predicted considerable tailbacks both north and southbound on the A449 Stafford Road which could impact on Coven.

Philip Atkins, Leader of Staffordshire County Council, defended the current scheme. He said: "While it is always good to hear the views of our engineers of the future, of course the county council has a highly skilled, qualified team of engineers."

Sweetest moment for the civic couple

Black Country Living Museum demonstrator and Dudley Mayoress Heather Finch with her husband Mayor Alan Finch

A SWEET shop worker at the Black Country Living Museum had a special surprise when a VIP visitor popped in to see her.

Dudley's new mayor, Councillor Alan Finch paid an official visit to the museum, on Tipton Road, to go to see his wife, the new mayoress, in her role as a demonstrator in the sweet shop.

Heather Finch, aged 57, has been working part time in the Victorian sweet shop at the museum for the past two years, after starting there as a guide four years before that. Every week she will don her traditional dress, and sell sweets to visitors as well as make the sweets.

So when Councillor Finch, Labour ward member for Castle and Priory, became the new mayor two weeks ago, he thought it was only right to pay Mrs Mayor and the museum a visit, so she put on her Victorian clothes and newly-acquired chains to welcome him.

Councillor Finch said: "That was the first time I've been to visit her in her workplace. I really enjoyed my visit, and I want to give the museum some publicity."

Councillor Finch, 60, followed in his brother's footsteps when he was elected first citizen earlier this month as his older sibling Ken was mayor in 1998/99.

Scheme saves 1,000 from facing eviction

MORE than 1,000 people have been saved from homelessness in Dudley borough during 12 months, new figures claim.

Around 400 referrals were lodged with a mortgage arrears advice service to help families who feared they could lose their home. Council bosses say there has been a 'steady demand' for the service since April 2012 as people struggle to make ends meet. The service provides advice and support to help people to stay in their own homes.

It was set up in 2006 as a partnership between Dudley Council's housing services and Dudley District Citizen's Advice Bureau in response to the increase in property repossessions.

Help is available for anything ranging from advice about money worries to what to do when someone is served an eviction notice. Councillor Steve Waltho, said: "This scheme is excellent and has made a direct impact upon the quality of life of so many Dudley residents."

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Festival plans taking shape

PREPARATIONS are under way for the annual Wordsley Festival, and organisations can book a stall.

The event is at King George V Park, Lawnswood Road, Wordsley, on June 22, and families will be able to enjoy the fun day thanks to a £5,000 grant from Dudley Council.

Now organisers want individuals and organisations to book pitches.

There will be horse riding shows, a dog display team and falconry displays on offer, and therewill be a fun fair there.

Entry is £2 for adults and £1 for children, and parking will be available. Organiser Mick Davies said to book a stall people could email wordsleyfestival@gmail.com, or call him on 07582 306200.

MP appeals for more staff and resources for struggling A & E

STAFF at Russells Hall's A&E department are struggling to cope with the number of patients and need more resources, according to Dudley North MP Ian Austin.

Mr Austin has called on Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt to make sure the hospital has enough staff and resources to deal with the rising number of A&E admissions.

Mr Austin said: "Despite all the hard work by staff at Russells Hall, demands on A&E are going through the roof and the Government has to make extra resources available so that the hospital can cope. David Cameron promised the NHS would be safe on his watch but instead his government has haemorrhaged thousands of nurses and done nothing whilst A&Es struggled through the winter.

"His expensive and bureaucratic reorganisation has cost the NHS in Dudley £20 million, which should have been spent on patient care."

Staffing shortages have left A&E departments struggling to cope, with reports of ambulances queueing and patients left on trolleys for hours. More than a million more patients attended A&E between February 2012 to January 2013 than in the previous 12 months, Mr Austin said.

Recently the College of Emergency Medicines reported the pressure on A&E units across the country was the heaviest for a decade. Citing figures showing that Russells Hall has missed its A&E waiting time targets for 13 of the last 26 weeks, Mr Austin asked Mr Hunt to look at what can be done to increase the number of local out-of-hours GP services.

He has also raised concerns that the new 111 service could be increasing the strain as operators misdirected patients to A&E.

Free event for families

A FREE family event will be held to mark National Breastfeeding Week by the maternity unit at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital and the city's art gallery.

Held on June 13. it will feature live music and singing, information stands, presentations, activities for all the family, a family photo sitting, breastfeeding support and information, and a mother and baby bop.

Pregnant women, new mothers, families with young children and health professionals are invited to the event from 10am until 3pm.

Cakes and history on menu at school

Oliver Sheldon, Jasper Davis and Lucy Hannah serve cake and tea to their visitors

YOUNGSTERS at a Dudley school baked cakes and performed classic wartime songs for more than 80 older people.

Year 5 pupils at Oldswinford CE Primary School, Field Lane, staged the event on Friday following weeks of preparation.

Older family members and residents at nursing homes in the borough were invited to attend and share their memories of the Second World War with youngsters.

They were treated to a homemade tea with children baking cakes and other treats during the week as part of their preparations.

More than 100 confections were created. Youngsters also performed rousing renditions of the Vera Lynn hit White Cliffs of Dover, It's a Long Way to Tipperary and Wish Me Luck as You Wave Me Goodbye.

The two year five classes have been practising the songs for weeks in order to give flawless performances.

Headteacher Ross Workman said: "This has been an excellent opportunity for our children to find out first-hand experiences to bring their history project on the Second World War alive.

"It has also been a wonderful way to build friendships with our community."

Severn Trent defends delays on pipe work

SEVERN Trent Water chiefs have defended delays to repair work on a water pipe that will leave drivers facing delays for up to two months longer than planned.

The firm is carrying out the work on Compton Bridge on the A454 Bridgnorth Road, Wolverhampton.

Lane closures were originally expected to be in place for six weeks when the work started on April 2.

Bosses then said the restrictions could last until the end of May. But they have now revealed the work will continue until the middle of July.

Severn Trent's solution manager, Mark Jones, said: "We're now carrying out further investigations so that we can install a new water pipe and, because there are gas pipes in the area, we're liaising with National Grid.

"We're also keeping residents up-to-date with our progress and we're in contact with the Highways Authority and the Canals & Rivers Trust."

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Source: Newspaper Society

NEWS

Charlotte wins scouting's highest honour

From left, Charlotte Whitehouse, aged 18, her brother George, 16, with the Explorer Leader Julian Hartland and Dudley District Commissioner Keith Griffiths joined by other group members

STOURBRIDGE student Charlotte Whitehouse received scouting's highest honour at a ceremony surrounded by her friends and family.

The 18-year-old received the Queen's Scout Award after completing a tough set of challenges.

Charlotte, an A-level student at Stourbridge's King Edward VI College, had already tackled activities as part of her Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

But she completed other trials to get the Queen's Award honour.

Over recent months she has become a warden at St Chads and All Saints Church, in Sedgley, spent four days working in the ticket office at the Severn Valley Railway, and gone on a series of camps.

She was invited to join hundreds of other award recipients to meet the Duchess of Cambridge and chief scout Bear Grylls for the National Review of the Queen's Scouts at Windsor Castle last month.

Charlotte travelled down to Windsor with her parents Ian and Alison and her brother George, 16, who is also in the scouts, for the special occasion.

"It was really good and I felt quite proud to go down there and be part of it," said Charlotte, who lives in Kipling Road, Sedgley.

Football complex opposed

OBJECTIONS have been lodged against plans for a £1 million football complex which will be the next phase of Dudley College's town centre learning quarter.

An all-weather floodlit pitch and a challenge course is planned which will be open to students, schools and the community. But some neighbours of the site proposed for the development, off Priory Road, fear their peace and quiet will be disturbed.

They have written to Dudley Council to voice their concerns, claiming it will lead to an increase in noise and light nuisance while night matches are being played.

The college plans to have a 9.30pm curfew in place for the pitch during the week and a 5pm curfew at weekends

Residents have submitted a dozen letters of objection to planners. But the scheme is backed by Sport England, which said there was a local need for this type of football provision. A decision will be made by Dudley Council within weeks.

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NEWS

1,400 looking for aid to offset the bedroom tax

MORE than 1,400 desperate families and council tenants have applied for emergency handouts to help them cope with the controversial 'bedroom tax', figures show.

Councils in the Black Country, South Staffordshire, Cannock Chase, Lichfield, Stafford and Wyre Forest have received more applications for help in the past month than they had in six months last year.

Latest figures claim there have been 1,267 applications for support with paying rent, called discretionary housing payments (DHPs) in April 2013.

The same councils had 2,102 requests for the whole of the 2012/13 financial year.

Tenants are seeking tens of thousands of pounds to cover their rent following cuts to housing benefit for anyone who has one or more spare rooms.

Under the controversial new measure, dubbed the bedroom tax by critics, people in council or social rented housing with one spare room lose 14 per cent of their housing benefit. People with two or more spare rooms lose 25 per cent.

The Government wants people who are 'under-occupying' to trade down to smaller properties to reduce soaring waiting lists for council homes from families living in cramped accommodation.

But there is a shortage of smaller properties for people to go to. Pensioners with spare rooms are exempt from the charge.

The worst affected area is in Dudley with 529 applications for help.

MP backs Bill on patents

EUROPE-wide laws to help businesses protect their designs and patents have been welcomed by a West Midlands MEP. Malcolm Harbour, who represents the region for the Tories, said the Intellectual Property Bill would include the introduction of the new EU Patent. Mr Harbour said: "I welcome this bill."

Sonny proves a belter

Sonny Anderson, aged 13, of Wall Heath, has got his black belt in taekwondo from attending a class at Blakenhall Community College

YEARS of hard work have paid off for a talented young martial artist who has earned a black belt, aged 13. Sonny Anderson rose through the ranks after taking up taekwondo aged five.

Now the keen rugby player has reached the standard of black belt – which his instructor said was a 'great achievement'.

Sonny, of Wall Heath, is a member of the Heart of England Martial Arts group that meets at Blakenhall Community and Healthy Living Centre, Bromley Street.

His instructor Chris Woolcock, who won world championship gold for sparring in 2004, said: "He has done really well. We work towards high standards here and have a strict structure, which I think has helped him get so far.

"He has got very far for his age. I was 16 when I got my black belt. He balances taekwondo with rugby and other sports and he is very active.

"He also works very hard at school and he is getting good grades there. He has been persistent."

Sonny, a pupil at Summerhill School, Kingswinford, is 'very determined to succeed', his mother Kate said.

She added: "I'm really proud of him. He has stuck at it."

Meetings are held every Tuesday from 7-8pm and the group offers lessons of all grades.

Heart of England Martial Arts - which has groups in Nottingham, Derby, Leicester and Burton-on-Trent – practices the chang hon style of taekwondo.

Email beacontkd@gmail.com or call 07986 502212 to get in touch with the Bromley Street group.

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CLUB NEWS

Guild gets crafty for enjoyable afternoon

The art and craft section during an afternoon at the Craft Centre, Halfpenny Green

SEDGLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

THE club's arts and craft section are seen here having a very busy afternoon at the Craft Centre at Halfpenny Green Vineyard.

They were having a very enjoyable and amusing time making a little gift bag to contain a tea bag and biscuit, which required the use several new skills including the use of glue.

A representative of Nova Chocolate talked at the guild meeting about chocolate, a very interesting subject. The excellent speaker related many unusual facts about chocolate including that it didn't necessarily make people fat, which was very pleasing.

At the next meeting Ruth Lowe will talk about Mary Quant in the 60 and 70s.

New members and visitors are always welcome to guild meetings which are on the third Monday at 7.15pm in Sedgley Community Centre.

Thought-provoking talk

BILSTON & DISTRICT SOROPTIMISTS

AT their Dinner Meeting, Members of SI Bilston were given a talk by Nanette Mellor, a campaign designer for Mencap.

It was the first after dinner speaker following the theme "A Day in the Life" for which president Tina has invited various women speakers in different professions to share with members.

Nanette conveyed her thought-provoking memories of childhood and the lives of her mother and aunt, who had experienced sexual abuse when in care.

Her aunt had learning difficulties which made Nanette more determined to help protect vulnerable people or those with learning difficulties.

A dinner date with ex-mayor

DUDLEY SOUTH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

CHAIRMAN Mary Jones welcomed 42 members and one visitor for a three-course lunch and to hear speaker Councillor Michael Evans, former Mayor of Dudley.

Having taken a vow of service to Dudley he then became the number one citizen of the borough.

He travelled all over the West Midlands attending civic services, charity functions, entertained delegates from overseas and promoted businesses. He particularly enjoyed welcoming visitors to the Mayor's chambers and ended his term of office with the Mayor's Ball. Over the year £24,400 was raised for SSAFA and Leukaemia.

The chairman then surprised everyone with the news that Betty Griffin, who had been treasurer for 20 years, was retiring and moving to the south coast. Members expressed their gratitude for her devotion to the club and presented her with a bouquet. Sandra Chappell and Jan Burrows kindly agreed to take over as treasurer and registrar.

June's speaker will be John Sparry with a 'Reminder of the time'.

An outing to Stratford has been arranged for June 28 and Ann and Mike Rogers invited members to their home for a coffee morning on August 9.

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NEWS

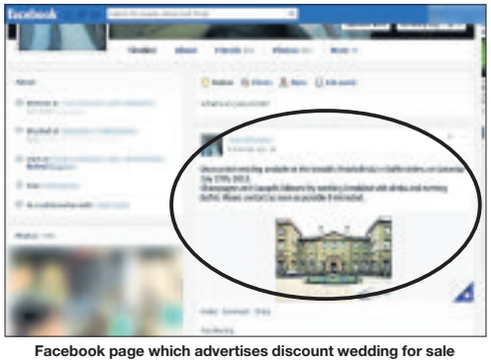
Discount wedding put up for sale on Facebook site

CHILDHOOD sweethearts who planned their wedding reception at a South Staffordshire venue, hit by financial troubles, have put their event up for sale on Facebook.

Patshull Hall, at Burnhill Green near Pattingham, called in administrative receivers BDO in March, leaving 29 weddings in the balance. Bosses have since said they could only honour bookings up until September.

Jack Attwater and his bride-to-be Melissa Brookes were among the couples affected and had already booked Claverley Church for their big day on July 27. Doubts however crept in for the pair about whether the reception would be cancelled due to the receivership so they began looking for a replacement venue.

BDO also asked for extra money for the event, so the couple are now trying to negotiate to sell their £10,000 booking, at a discount price, to recoup some of the money they fear they will have lost.



Facebook page which advertises discount wedding for sale

Negotiate

Legacy Hotels, an outside firm which has been brought in to organise bookings at Patshull Hall, have also agreed to help and featured an advert for a discounted event on the Legacy Hotels/Patshull Hall website.

Mr Attwater, aged 25, who lives in Darlaston, said: "When Patshull Hall went in receivership we were absolutely gutted and it was very upsetting."

The finance worker who met Melissa when they were both working at Shipley's Fox Hotel at the age of 16 added: "We are willing to negotiate a price for any other couple that wants to take us up on the offer." For more information email sueatty@gmail.com.

Part of the venue has been put up for sale as part of the receivership already. The Grade I-listed Georgian mansion has benefited from £1.5 million restoration work.

Colliers International and Berriman Eaton are marketing the part of the mansion restored by Tim Reynolds.

A guide price has not been set but the 14-bedroom house was put up for sale with a £4 million price tag four years ago, before it was taken off the market again.

Schoolgirl drums up charity dream trip fund with concert

A SCHOOLGIRL with dreams of helping people in Kenya is holding a concert in Wolverhampton to help raise money for her once-in-a-lifetime trip.

Hayley Timmis, aged 17 from Great Barr has organised the rock concert at Bilston's Robin 2 venue to raise funds for a four-week trip to Kenya organised by charity Camps International.

Positive

The pupil of Q3 academy said she realised she wanted to help after refusing to go up the Eiffel Tower and regretting it. She said: "I decided after that I was not going to pass any other opportunities up again that I may later regret and when the opportunity arose to go and help others less fortunate than myself I jumped at the chance."

Hayley has completed all the hard work herself including the booking of three bands, Mivvi, Acoustic Hooligan and Samurai Sunday. She said: "It's good to know that I will be making a difference in a positive way to people, environments and animals."

The gig due to take place on June 4 aims to raise £4,000 needed as a donation for the trip.

Tickets costing £5 in advance or £7 on the night are available by calling 07806 888 234 or email rockredemption@mail.com

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NEWS

Deal may be on horizon for £10m white elephant

PROPERTY experts are said to be in active discussions with a potential occupier for a £10 million fire control headquarters in the Black Country which was abandoned before ever opening.

Plans to open the site as a regional control centre for the fire service were scrapped before it was even finished, and it has never had a tenant.

Taxpayers will have to pick up its £48 million rental bill over a 25-year lease if a tenant is never found, while the public purse also continues to cover its round-the-clock security and electricity.

Total running costs including rent are around £1.8m a year but the site is now being offered to other businesses for just £450,000.

The taxpayer will have to make up the shortfall if no new agreement can be reached.

Occupier

The Government's Department for Communities and Local Government has brought in property consultants GVA to market the building.

The company says it has found a potential occupier and hopes it can release good news in the coming months.

It comes after senior civil servant Sir Bob Kerslake admitted the centre 'was not appropriate to the needs of the country', when it was created.

GVA used the £39,000 budget it was given by Whitehall to market the centre directly to a list of 2,500 prospective occupiers the firm agreed with the Government.

The company would however not reveal the identity, nor the sector, of the potential occupier of the site.

Makeover tonic for Paige

Paige Doherty get a makeover from make-up expert Stacey Dowler, left

TEENAGER Paige Doherty who has had ill-health was given a glamorous gift to keep her spirits up.

The Kingswinford girl, aged 15, has had seven stays in hospital since she was first admitted for persistent sickness in July 2011.

She has been at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital since March. But thanks to the Wishing Well charity and its director Steve Ford, Paige had a makeover to cheer her up.

Paige's mother Joanne, aged 40 of Bromley Lane, said: "She loved it."

Mrs Doherty said her daughter filled out the wish form a month ago after Mr Ford made one of his regularly visits to the ward.

Paige, who lives with parents and sister Stacey, aged 21, Mitchell, aged 18, and Callum, aged 17, is home schooled.

She wished for a beauty makeover and Stourbrige mobile hair and make-up expert Stacey Dowler, of Twirls and Curls, stepped in.

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The British Grand Prix at Silverstone

Few sporting occasions match the intensity, glamour and drama of the Formula 1 British Grand Prix, and whether you are a wide-eyed first timer or seasoned veteran the experience is breathtaking.

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Red Cross seeking life-savers

THE British Red Cross is holding two recruitment events in Streetly for potential life-savers interested in providing first aid at public events in the region.

The open events are on Wednesday, 7.30pm-9.30pm and Saturday, June 15, between 10am and 12noon. Both are at the Red Cross centre at 44 Blackwood Road, Streetly.

To find out more call Mr Dominck Pumphrey on 07590 326073 or email dpumphrey@redcross.org.uk People can apply online at www.redcross.org.uk/get-involved

Son stole £2,000 from his sick father to go gambling

A SON broke into his father's home while he was ill in hospital and stole almost £2,000, a court heard. Jason Northall squandered the money gambling and on travelling expenses, magistrates heard.

The supermarket worker broke into his father David Northall's house on the Beechdale estate, Walsall between last October and the beginning of this year.

Walsall Magistrates Court heard it was while Mr Northall was recovering in his hospital bed that his son took his post office account card and withdrew hundreds of pounds at a time.

Report by Claire Fry

He only stopped once the card was blocked.

Mr Van French, prosecuting, said Mr Northall only discovered the account card was missing once he had returned to his home and the money had been taken.

Looking

"You can only imagine how ill Mr Northall had been with how long he was in hospital as they are always looking to make beds free," Mr French said.

He added that aid Northall was not given permission to enter the house or use the card, and had somehow managed to find the pin number for the account. Mr French continued: "When suspicion fell on him, he told his father he would pay the money back but he failed to do so.

"He told police the reason he had done it was because his father hadn't been a good dad to him, and hadn't given him anything in his life."

Northall, aged 41, of Basford, Nottingham, admitted fraud by false representation.

Mr John Holdcroft, defending, said Northall was remorseful for his actions, and had already repaid £300.

Northall was ordered to complete 120 hours of unpaid work. He also has to pay £80 in costs, a £60 victim surcharge, and the remainder of the £1,900 he owes.

Care home extension is rejected

AN extension plan at a Halesowen care home has been rejected by councillors.

Tony Billingham, who owns Lapal House, had submitted plans to demolish garages and replace them with a new building to provide short-stay respite care.

But members of Dudley Council's planning committee turned down the plans, fearing the green belt would be affected.

Under the proposals, the new building would have provided five units, each with a bedroom, bathroom and lounge.

Wrecked car is left at scene of crash

The Nissan Micra car on Birmingham New Road, near Shaw Road, Coseley, which has been abandoned

A WRECKED car was left on the side of a main route through the Black Country – a day after it ploughed into a lamppost at a busy junction.

The silver Nissan Micra was abandoned on the grass verge in Coseley, sparking fears the lamppost could topple over.

The car was involved in a smash with a Ford Ka on the Birmingham New Road at its junction with Shaw Road, leaving a woman driver with minor injuries.

Police insist the car's owner is responsible for moving it as it is not part of a criminal investigation.

Drivers faced tailbacks through Lanesfield and back towards Dudley following the smash at about 12.10pm on May 28 as the traffic lights were out of order.

But the Micra was still on the roadside the next day where it crashed. Police tape has been wrapped around it.

James Senior, aged 48, said he returned home from work at a shop in Birmingham at about 4pm last Wednesday and was 'shocked' to see the badly damaged car.

He added: "Usually accidents like this are cleared up pretty quickly so it seems strange that it would just be left for so long." Police spokesman Lee Page said: "We would only move the car if it's necessary to do so for our investigation, for example with serious road traffic collisions.

"This is only a relatively minor collision and it's down to the owner to remove it."

New venue hopes for vintage steam event

A VINTAGE steam rally that attracts thousands of visitors to the Black Country could be held in a different venue and removed from council control as a row over funding goes on.

The event in Wolverhampton is paid for by the city council – but a parade of vehicles through the city has been scrapped this year to cut costs. Now plans are being drawn up for it to be funded by the organisers at a new venue.

Organiser Councillor Malcolm Gwinnett said he was quitting this year's event due to the cutbacks. But he said it could become an independently run event.

Councillor Gwinnett said: "We have several locations that we can use but we don't want to say any more until it has been sorted out. We can do it without the council and it will be a better event than we have now. They have destroyed the event – it used to be one of the highlights of the year."

Council spokesman Gurdip Thandi said the authority was not aware of the plans.

NEWS

Apprentice Joe helps to give firm's sales a boost

A NEW apprentice has helped online sales at the UK's biggest supplier of 4x4 accessories to double.

Bosses at Brierley Hill-based Autostyling say their latest recruit has made an impact on the fast-growing company's e-commerce sales.

Joe Burke, aged 19, is heading towards a full-time job after impressing bosses at the business which supplies 4x4, pick-up, and sports utility vehicle accessories.

Joe, who left college after studying web design and graphics, found out about the apprenticeship thanks to The Apprenticeship Works based in West Bromwich.

It brokers apprentices for employers across the region and placed Joe with Autostyling last year.

Since taking up responsibilities for the company's website, working alongside an external web agency, Joe has helped the business's online arm double its sales.

Apprentice Joe Burke, aged 19, at work at Autostyling, Brierley Hill

Experienced

Autostyling director Richard Langman said: "We are expanding and we like to take on good apprentices who can learn from our experienced staff and, over time, enhance our business. They are worth investing in, as Joe has proved.

"His web design skills coupled with a thorough knowledge of our product range means he is able to link between the business and our external web agency to make the most of our online presence.

"Since he started to carve out this new role we have seen online sales double. Joe's work, improving the quality of our images and the way people search online for our products, is paying off."

The company is opening another warehouse and is looking to recruit around 15 new staff plus at least two new apprentices.

Mr Langman said: "We value our apprentices. We take on apprentices in addition to skilled staff so that we are able to invest in them and train them properly with the aim of them gaining full-time jobs with us."

The Apprenticeship Works is one of a small number of nationally approved apprentice training agencies. It was set up in 2009 to help employers recruit young people to their business.

It employs the apprentice, deals with wages, holidays and paperwork, and then simply hires the young person to employers though a weekly agreement.

Joe said: "It is working out really well and it is good to know my skills are being used and making a difference to the business," added Joe.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Ghost is our world not the film's – star

The spectacular show is on at The Grand. **ALISON NORTON** spoke with the stars of the musical

Rebecca Trehearn and Stewart Clarke, who play the lead roles in Ghosts

WHEN the film version of Ghost hit the big screen back in 1990, this romantic fantasy starring Demi Moore and Patrick Swayze made even the hardest hearted cinema goer shed a tear.

Who wouldn't be affected by a tale of true love ruined when the couple are torn apart by his untimely death?

As she leans over his body, you feel her despair and then his total frustration at being trapped between the real and spirit worlds, as he tries to avenge his own death and keep his love safe from harm.

Describes

The musical version of Ghost swept into the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre as part of the current UK tour.

With music by one of the most respected musicians of recent times, Dave Stewart, and an Oscar winning screenplay by Bruce Joel Rubin adapted for stage, Ghost is not just a musical, it's an experience.

There's a Midlands flavour to the show too.

Solihull born and bred, Stewart Clarke plays Sam Wheat. He describes the show as 'an awe-inspring tale of the power of undying love'.

"To this day I have not seen the film," he said. "The world of Ghost that Rebecca (Trehearn) and I have created is our world and I would rather keep it that way."

Molly Jensen is played by Rebecca Trehearn, who understudied the role in the West End. Is it difficult to keep her emotions under control with such a heart-wrenching storyline?

"I do spend a lot of time crying and shouting on stage," laughed Rebecca, "and sometimes before a show I think, I don't want to cry anymore, but you just get swept along in it."

Wendy Mae Brown provides light relief as the loveable, but slightly crooked psychic, Oda Mae Brown, famously portrayed in the movie by the queen of American comedy, Whoopi Goldberg.

"As a black performer and with my name, I feel as if I was born to play her," laughed Wendy. Oda Mae is certainly a colourful character, but it is Wendy's exceptional comedic timing and sparkling personality that lights up the stage.

The special effects in the show are phenomenal and the whole cast have the utmost respect for the technical team who create the magic.

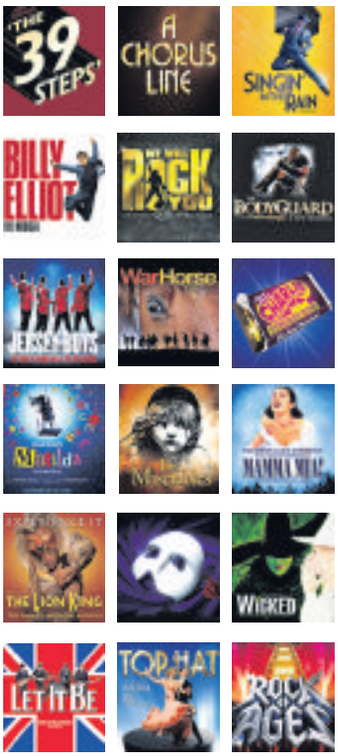
Sam not only walks through doors, but appears in two places at once and ascends to heaven in the most spectacular way. It's just spine-tingling!

So do you believe in "Ghosts?"If not this show might just change your, mind because you'll never feel or see anything like it.

Ghost runs until June 15. For tickets contact 01902 429212 or visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk

● What's On – Page 27

star extra TRAVEL London Theatre Breaks



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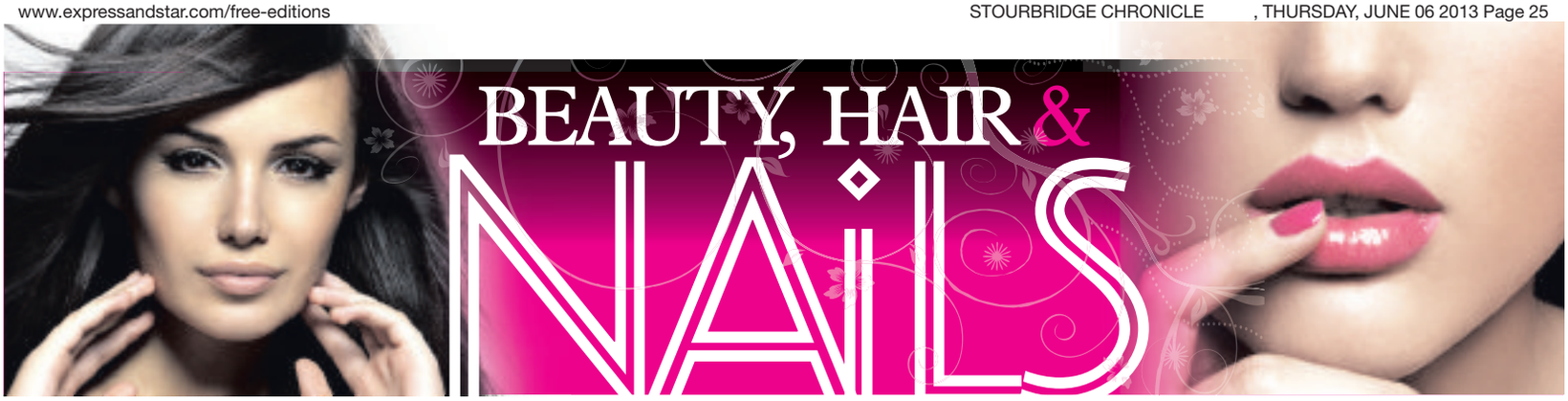

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June & July

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Stourbridge Nail Studio situated in Clifton Street in the established 'Old Quarter' aims to offer the best customer service to all clients, whilst using only the best available premium nail products in today's ever expanding market. All staff are highly trained and fully qualified and we pride ourselves in offering a relaxed, friendly and professional environment. Stourbridge Nail Studio is also part of The Best of Stourbridge, and has been recognised as one of the best Nail Salons in Stourbidge and the surrounding areas. There is ample free parking and we are open six days a week with two late nights, Thursday and Friday.

16 Clifton Street, Stourbridge

01384 376677

PEDMORE BEAUTY ROOMS

Pedmore Beauty Rooms is a luxurious Elemis Beauty Salon based in Chawn Park Drive, Pedmore. We aim to offer the beat beauty treatments in luxurious surroundings, but at an affordable cost to everyone. All staff are Elemis trained and very experienced in all aspects of beauty and aim to offer a relaxed informal atmosphere. New products are always being added tour treatment list and we are proud to say Pedmore Beauty Rooms has been recognised as one of the best businesses locally and are part of 'The Best of Stourbridge' offering the best services to local people. We are open late Thursday and Friday and there is Free Parking at any time.

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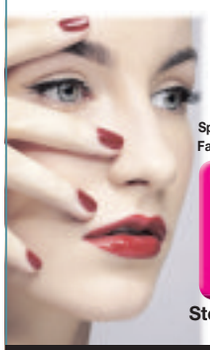

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Steph: 07977 259572 Faye: 07523 167995
90b Worcester Road, Hagley DY9 0NJ

www.thebeautyboutiquehagley.co.uk

Approaching its 2nd year in business, The Beauty Boutique has recently undergone some subtle changes to expand its flourishing client base. Presenting a wider choice of treatments at an affordable price and the introduction of a new therapist Faye, there really is something for everyone. Boasting a relaxed friendly atmosphere, you will feel completely at ease here. Your Shellac Manicure here is only £20, and Prom packages are now available. Give yourself some you time - Book Today!

L&S Footcare

Husband and wife team Steve and Lucky run L&S Footcare, from 'The Retreat' in Wordsley, they treat all types of foot problems including corns, ingrown toenails, calluses, fungal or bulky nails and offer general and diabetic footcare advice. Steve says "Feet are an incredible piece of engineering. A complicated system of muscles, tendons, ligaments and 52 bones, in a life time we walk around 65,000 miles, at least three times around the world. Now that summer is here and after months of ignoring our feet, it's time to show them some care." To ensure comfortable feet today and into the future get your feet checked by the professionals at L&S Footcare. Phone for an appointment now.

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The ELTON CENTRE..

is a little Gem for the elderly, tucked away between the Stourbridge Interchange, the Railway Station and Fire Station.

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The aim of Age Concern's Elton Centre is to provide day time activities and information services for the elderly.

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The hospice provides specialist care to those who are unlikely to be cured. This care is tailored to each individual patient and their loved ones, and is provided either at the 10 bed In-Patient Unit or the Day Therapies Clinic. Both are based in Hagley Road, Oldswinford, and offer modern facilities complemented by a warm, friendly and comforting environment.

Services are offered to adults aged 18 years and over with illnesses such as cancer, multiple sclerosis, motor neurone disease, Parkinson's disease, advanced renal and cardiac disease, and HIV/AIDS.

Mary Stevens Hospice care is provided free of charge to all those who need it, and although the registered charity receives some funding from the Government, it relies on donations and fundraising from the local community to raise more than 80% of its £2.3 million annual running costs.

221 Hagley Road, Stourbridge - 01384 443010

It's time to turn back to the trusted local butchers. Crown Butchers in Market Street, Stourbridge not only serves locally sourced meats of high quality, they can also give fantastic advice on a range of tastes that will certainly get your taste buds sizzling this summer.

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Triple spirit as Phantoms pack in songs from shows

THREE Phantoms from Andrew Lloyd Webber's famous musical perform in this event where musical theatre meets the Rat Pack.

It stars Earl Carpenter, Matt Cammelle and Stephen John Davis, who have all played the Phantom to critical acclaim as well as principal roles in some of the greatest musicals.

The trio are joined at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on June 12 by Rebecca Caine who won the role of Christine Daaé as part of the original cast of The Phantom of the Opera.

*This show filled with humour and stirring performances, features songs from West End musicals.

Hearts

At Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre until June 16, is the musical Ghost, based on the film that captured the hearts of a generation in the 90s.

And for opera fans, a feast from the Welsh National Opera at Birmingham Hippodrome with Wagner Dream (June 12); Lohengrin (June 13/15) and Madam Butterfly (June 14)

**Three Phantoms is in no way connected with and/or approved/endorsed by Really Useful Group or Andrew Lloyd Webber.*

REVIEW

Carnaby Street, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

SET against the backdrop of London's West End in the 60s, its iconic clubs and fashion, Carnaby Street is the musical story of a generation.

Packed with more than 30 hits from the time, including In The Middle of Nowhere, I Only Wanna Be With You, Anyone Who Had a Heart, Keep on Running, it tells the story of a boy's dream to be a pop star – at any cost

A young working class boy arrives from Liverpool to London armed with nothing but his guitar, but in his pursuit of stardom he meets, falls in love and has his heart broken until he realises that fame is not all it is cracked up to be.

Energetic

The story was well told in songs although was slightly contrived and cheesy.

A news seller kept the New Alexandra Theatre audience up to date with important happenings of that era although a lot of what he said was lost as his parting shot was normally just as he was walking off stage.

In the role of the would-be star Jude, was Matthew Wycliffe. His love interest was Jane (Tricia Adele-Turner). The two definitely have the strongest voices.

A very energetic enthusiastic performance, but somewhat lacking in vocal strength, it was very warmly received by the audience.

It runs until Saturday.

SUE ATTWATER

It's Cooper play – just like that!

BEING Tommy Cooper is on a 39-date national tour stopping off at the New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham on June 12.

The new play, by Tom Green, stars Damian Williams as Cooper and celebrates the brilliance of the comic and explores the pressures and loneliness of fame.

After Tommy's TV debut in 1948, he went on to be a star in a career that spanned four decades.

Tommy died in 1984, famously collapsing from a heart attack on live television in front of millions of viewers during his act on Live From Her Majesty's.

Marc Robinson as Buddy Holly

Rock'n'roll legend Jess Conrad

That'll be the day for nostalgia

HIT stage show Buddy Holly – a Legend Reborn is coming to Wolverhampton starring original rock'n'roll legend Jess Conrad.

Marc Robinson, a winner from ITV's legendary Stars in Their Eyes show, headlines the live production, bringing to life classic hits such as Peggy Sue, That'll be the Day and Oh Boy.

Backed by a band reminiscent of the Crickets in their 50s heyday the show is an authentic slice of rock 'n' roll nostalgia.

Joining Marc areJess Conrad, recreating the performances on 60s rock-'n'roll show Oh Boy! and Patsy Lee, as Connie Francis with hits, Who's Sorry Now, Lipstick on Your Collar and Stupid Cupid.

The show is at the Grand Theatre on Sunday, June 16.

REVIEW

Maggie Boyle and Paul Downes, Newhampton Folk Club

THERE is an organic and unadorned feel to Maggie Boyle's style of singing and flute playing, something a lot of folk musicians have left behind.

She and guitarist Paul Downes opened their set at the Newhampton Inn with a traditional-sounding duet Brave Boys.

Boyle doesn't have the strongest of voices but she uses it to good effect and her honest, almost nervy at times, tones are very refreshing.

She started Once in a While a cappella, before moving on to her flute to fill out the rest of the tune.

Memories

Downes switched over to the five-string banjo for ballad Sweet Nancy before Boyle took over for a trio of flute solos which were a Lament for John Doherty, Betty Sue Southall and Paddy Boyle's Highland.

The first tune had a real sense of melancholia and brought memories of the soundtrack from the Ken Loach classic Kes. The second was more upbeat accompanied by Downes on guitar. The third even lighter with a definite Celtic sound.

Later on in the set Downes was back on the banjo showing his impressive picking skills.

Unfortunately his voice is nowhere near as good as his playing.

DANNY FARRAGHER

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 8.06.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Michael Obiora

Casualty
BBC1, 9.10pm
Cat McSweeney has had an allergic reaction to her fake tan, and is suffering from headaches, dizziness and nausea. While she undergoes treatment, it seems her fella could hold the key to her reaction. Meanwhile, Lloyd (Michael Obiora) is determined to uncover the truth about a cannabis factory on his final day as a nurse. Given the time of year there's little wonder this episode doesn't pack as much of a punch as the autumn instalments, but if Britain's Got Talent leaves you cold, then this alternative is just what the doctor ordered.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.00** Total Wipeout. (R) **3.00** Live Equestrian. **5.00** Live Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix Qualifying. Coverage from the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal (Start-time 6.00pm).
7.10 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
7.30 Pointless Celebrities. Stars who have appeared on Strictly Come Dancing, including Ola Jordan, Chris Parker, Chelsee Healey and Laila Rouass, take part in the unorthodox general knowledge quiz. (R)
8.20 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton hosts the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the National Lottery draws, presented by OJ Borg.
9.10 Casualty. Lloyd is determined to uncover the truth about a cannabis factory on his final day as a nurse, while Tess and Fletch try to counsel a feisty young couple.
10.00 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.
10.20 Film: The Rock. (1996) An FBI chemical weapons expert and a jailed SAS veteran must break into Alcatraz to bring down a renegade general and his men. Action thriller, with Sean Connery and Nicolas Cage.
12.30 Film: Westworld. (1973) Sci-fi thriller, starring Yul Brynner and Richard Benjamin. **1.55** Weatherview. **2.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: Room Service. (1938) **7.15 Film:** Star of Midnight. (1935) **8.40** The Sky at Night. (R) **9.00** A History of Scotland. (R) **10.00** Reel History of Britain. (R) **10.30** Nature's Great Events. (R) **11.30** Just a Minute. (R) **12.00** The Chef's Protege. (R) **12.30** The Chef's Protege. (R) **1.00** The Chef's Protege. (R) **1.30** The Chef's Protege. (R) **2.30** Coast. **2.55** Live Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix Practice Three. **4.10** Natural World: Living with Baboons. (R) **5.10** Flog It! (R)
6.10 Don't Panic! The Dad's Army Story. Victoria Wood pays tribute to the comedy and introduces classic moments from the series. Contributors include Ian Lavender, Clive Dunn, and Bill Pertwee, who died last month. (R)
7.00 Dad's Army. Warden Hodges challenges Captain Mainwaring's platoon to a cricket match. Featuring a guest appearance by former England and Yorkshire fast bowler Fred Trueman. (R)
7.30 Live International Rugby Union. Argentina v England (Kick-off 8.10pm). Coverage of the first fixture in a two-match series, as the Pumas welcome England to the Estadio Padre Ernesto Martearena in Salta.
10.00 History of the Eagles. Part one of two. Profile of the American rock band, chronicling the group's creation and rise to fame in the 1970s through to their break-up in 1980. Concludes tomorrow at 10.30pm.
12.00 California Comes to the Whistle Test. **1.00 Film:** Honeydripper. (2007) **3.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Special Agent Oso. **6.10** Special Agent Oso. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Caninmals. (R) **7.15** Caninmals. (R) **7.20** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.35** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.00** Jessie. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Dinner Date. (R) **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** Saturday Farm. **12.30** All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) **1.30** Live French Open Tennis.
6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.15 ITV News; Weather.
6.30 You've Been Framed and Famous! Harry Hill narrates a selection of the best celebrity lookalike clips sent in by viewers, including people resembling Tom Cruise, Britney Spears and Prince Harry. (R)
7.30 Britain's Got Talent: The Live Final. The 10 finalists, plus a wildcard entry, battle for the chance to appear at the Royal Variety Performance and take home £250,000. Ant and Dec host. Last in the series.
10.00 The Americans. The The Jennings try to plant a bug in the defence secretary's office.
10.50 ITV News; Weather.
11.10 French Open Tennis. Highlights of the women's singles final from Roland Garros, the feature attraction of the 14th and penultimate day's play of the second Grand Slam tournament of the year.
12.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Starter Wife. Molly's friendship with Joan implodes. Last in the series. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** British F3 International Series. **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Heston's Fantastical Food. (R) **1.35** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.15 Come Dine with Me. The final dinner party in Swindon. (R)
6.40 Channel 4 News.
7.00 World's Weirdest Weather. Alex Beresford reveals the power of air and its role in the creation of strange weather events, from tornados spinning on the spot to dust storms, double rainbows and mirages. (R)
8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud meets two artists who are battling the elements to construct a modern home on the Isle of Skye, with a second building alongside to use as their art studio. (R)
9.00 Film: The Ghost. (2010) A writer is hired to pen the memoirs of a former prime minister, but comes across secrets that put his life in peril.
11.35 Film: The Others. (2001) Period supernatural thriller, starring Nicole Kidman, Fionnula Flanagan, Alakina Mann, James Bentley and Christopher Eccleston.
1.30 Southland. (R) **2.10** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.20** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.15** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** ThunderCats. (R) **10.55** Inside Hollywood. **11.00** World's Scariest Plane Landings. (R) **12.00** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.00** Cowboy Builders. (R) **2.00** CSI: Miami. (R) **2.55** CSI: Miami. (R) **3.45** CSI: NY. (R) **4.40 Film:** Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. (2005)
7.00 NCIS. The agents reluctantly team up with the Coast Guard to investigate the apparent murder of a Navy diver who was trying to recover a sunken ship and its treasure. With Mark Harmon. (R)
7.50 NCIS. A reporter for the Navy Times is found stabbed to death – and the team learns he had been going to meet a call girl linked to three other murders. (R)
8.40 NCIS. A murder is committed while an NCIS employee is moonlighting, so the agents step in to determine whether their colleague is responsible. (R)
9.20 5 News Weekend.
9.30 International Boxing. James DeGale v Stjepan Bozic. Mark Pougatch presents live coverage of the bout for the WBC Super Middleweight Silver title at Glow in Bluewater, Kent.
11.00 Neighbours: This Week. Hour-long highlights episode.
12.00 SuperCasino. **4.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **5.15** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.35** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 The Voice UK **9.00** The Voice UK Results **9.30** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00 Film:** Pretty Woman (1990) **11.55** Family Guy
BBC Four
7.00 Oceans **8.00** The Riviera: A History in Pictures **9.00** Arne Dahl: Europa Blues – Part Two **10.30** Ford's Dagenham Dream **11.30** Deadliest Crash: The Le Mans 1955 Disaster
ITV2
6.00 Film: A Cinderella Story (2004) **8.00 Film:** The Nutty Professor (1996) **10.00** Britain's Got More Talent: The Live Final **11.00** Lemon La Vida Loca **11.45 Film:** Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991)
ITV3
4.00 Foyle's War **6.00** Lewis **8.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **10.00** Blue Murder **11.35** Wire in the Blood
ITV4
12.30 Live French Open Tennis. Coverage of the 14th and penultimate day's play from Roland Garros. **7.00** Minder **8.00** The Sweeney **9.00** Hell on Wheels **10.00 Film:** Game of Death (2010)
E4
5.30 The Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Happy Endings **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** 2 Broke Girls **9.00 Film:** Transporter 3 (2008) Underworld courier Frank Martin transports the kidnapped daughter of a crooked government minister across Europe. Action thriller sequel, with Jason Statham. **11.05** The Inbetweeners
Film4
2.50 Carry On Constable (1960) **4.35** The Spiderwick Chronicles (2008) **6.25** A Knight's Tale (2001) **9.00** Boomerang (1992) **11.15** Jennifer's Body (2009)

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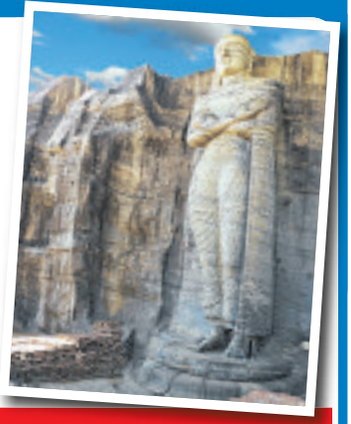
One of the first adventures on the itinerary is the famous Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage which boasts a herd of over 75 animals from matriarchs to calves and their daily bath in the river provides a stunning photo opportunity.

Some of the other included tours are to the 600 foot granite tower called Sigiriya, or the Lion Rock, known for its ancient murals of 'cloud maidens'; to Kandy, Sri Lanka's last Royal capital; to the amazing cave temples of Dambulla, a UN World Heritage site; and to a well-known tea estate and spice garden, staying at the four-star Grand Hotel, originally the summer home of one of the Governors of Ceylon.

For a different sort of experience, two nights are reserved at the Safari Hotel, which has a pool, bar and restaurant overlooking the Tiffa Lake. Just 45 minutes from the Yala National Park this is the base for an early morning start to the jeep safari in the hope of seeing leopard, elephants, saltwater crocodiles, wild boar, sloth bears, monitor lizards and a huge variety of birdlife. The three-star superior Palms Hotel in the beach resort of Beruwela is the final port of call, allowing for two days of rest and relaxation before the journey home.



Thirteen days £1,599*
Various departure dates

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return flights
- Nine nights half-board accommodation
- Guided visits to Pinnawela elephant orphanage, Sigiriya Rock, Dambulla cave temples,
- Kandy city tour and Botanical Gardens
- Visit to a tea estate and spice garden
- Jeep safari in Yala National Park
- Galle city tour
- Services of a Riviera tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

* various according to departure date please go to website for the latest prices

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For most visitors the highlight will be a full day's game drive that brings the chance to see the sweeping savannah and muddy waterholes lined with animals, and to marvel at the incredible 150 mammal and 500 bird species that live in the Kruger National Park, including the 'big five': elephant, lion, rhino, leopard and buffalo. Rooms are reserved at the three-star superior Hippo Hollow Country Estate, located in the midst of lush forest on the banks of the Sabie River. It's open-air terrace overlooks the grounds and river, so watch out for the hippos!

Those interested in history will be intrigued by the visit to Zululand, passing through Swaziland en route, to reach the haunting battlefields of Islandlwana and Rorke's Drift. In 1879 these two battles, just a day apart, became a defining moment for the British Empire and the specialist Zulu guide will make those desperate encounters come alive.

A well-organised schedule of tours combined with free time in Cape Town, Johannesburg, in Knysna on the coast and at the Kruger National Park means everyone will experience the very heart of South Africa on this 16-day adventure.

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Various departure dates

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return scheduled flights
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- Full day Kruger safari
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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 9.06.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Iain Stewart

Rise of the Continents BBC2, 9pm
The BBC likes its history documentaries, but this new series goes back a wee bit further than most... It sees Scottish geologist and broadcaster Professor Iain Stewart examine the very beginnings of the land masses we know today as our continents. In this opening edition, Iain takes a look at Africa, and how it was formed from the wreckage of a long-lost supercontinent. He examines all the evidence which scientists used to piece the facts together, including the landmarks, mineral wealth and wildlife, which all provide clues as to the continent's formation.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Countryfile. (R) **1.10** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.10** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.10** Points of View. **3.25** The People's Coronation with David Dimbleby. (R) **4.25** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Countryfile.

6.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.15 Live Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix. Suzi Perry introduces coverage of the seventh round of the season at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal (Start-time 7.00pm).

9.10 D-Day: The Last Heroes. Part one of two. Dan Snow examines how meticulous planning, espionage and 3D aerial photos helped the Allied forces gain a foothold in northern France during the Second World War. Concludes tomorrow at 9pm.

10.10 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.35 Have I Got Old News for You. Another chance to see the satirical quiz. (R)

11.05 Live at the Apollo. Dara O Briain presents the comedy show from the Hammersmith Apollo, featuring performances by The Inbetweeners star Greg Davies and Canadian comedian Stewart Francis. (R)

11.35 Film: Man of the Year. (2006) A talk-show host is elected president, but faces a moral dilemma when he learns his victory was caused by a computer error. Comedy, with Robin Williams.

1.25 Weatherview. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **7.00 Film:** Christopher Strong. (1933) **8.15** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.45** The A to Z of TV Gardening. **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Chinese Food Made Easy. (R) **12.00** What to Eat Now; (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** EastEnders. (R) **2.25 Film:** I Confess. (1953) **4.00** Boxing. **5.30** Flog It!

6.15 Antiques Road Trip. Kate Bliss and James Lewis set off on their Scottish road trip. (R)

7.00 Peter Jones Meets. The Dragons' Den star chats to Cobra Beer chairman and co-founder Karan Bilimoria, and Charlie Mullins, who runs London-based firm Pimlico Plumbers.

8.00 Operation Snow Tiger. Part one of two. Scientists studying endangered Siberian tigers.

9.00 Rise of the Continents. New series. Geologist Professor Iain Stewart examines key moments in the development of the world's major land masses, beginning by focusing on the formation and history of Africa.

10.00 Blackadder II. Edmund embarks on a voyage around the Cape of Good Hope. (R)

10.30 History of the Eagles. Part two of two. The band's reunion in 1994.

11.40 In Concert: The Eagles. A 1973 performance by the band. (R)

12.10 What a Load of Buzzcocks. (R) **12.40** Sign Zone: The People's Coronation with David Dimbleby. (R) **1.40** Countryfile. (R) **2.35** Holby City. (R) **3.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Special Agent Oso. **6.10** Special Agent Oso. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Canimals. (R) **7.20** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.30** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **8.00** Sonny with a Chance. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Country House Sunday. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30 Film:** Columbo: By Dawn's Early Light. (1974) **1.30** Live French Open Tennis.

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. New series. Chris Kamara, Rachel Riley and Stacey Solomon feature in a celebrity edition of the quiz, in which contestants answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.

8.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot. New series. An elderly psychiatrist is murdered.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 French Open Tennis. Highlights of the men's singles final from Roland Garros.

11.45 The Unforgettable Russell Harty. Profile of the chat-show host, who became a household name in the 1970s and 80s for his staging of some revealing celebrity interviews as Michael Parkinson's main rival. (R)

12.15 The Store. **2.15** Monk. (R) **3.00** Motorsport UK. Highlights from Donington Park, featuring the Formula Ford Championship and Porsche Carrera Cup. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** Blancpain Endurance Series. **7.05** Will & Grace. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00 Film:** The Brady Bunch Movie. (1995) **3.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.50** Deal or No Deal. **5.50** Channel 4 News.

6.15 The Political Slot. Seema Malhotra, Labour MP for Feltham and Heston, talks about the benefits of work-experience opportunities for teenagers.

6.20 Film: Ice Age: The Meltdown. (2006) Three prehistoric animals search for a tree to use as a boat and escape the danger of a melting glacier. Animated adventure sequel, with the voices of Ray Romano and Denis Leary.

8.00 Terror in the Skies. New series. Aeronautical engineer Brendan Walker presents shocking footage of aviation incidents and near misses, and tells stories of survival and bravery in the sky.

9.00 The Returned. New series. French supernatural thriller set in a small Alpine village where a group of men, women and children do not yet know they have been dead for several years.

10.10 Film: Law Abiding Citizen. (2009) Thriller, starring Gerard Butler and Jamie Foxx.

12.20 Film: Funny Games. (2008) **2.15** St Elsewhere. (R) **3.00** Deal or No Deal. (R) **3.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.50** Countdown. (R) **5.35** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.35** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.35** Hana's Helpline. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** ThunderCats. (R) **11.00** Inside Hollywood. **11.05** Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. (R) **12.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.10 Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training. (1986) **2.50 Film:** Cop and a Half. (1993) **4.35 Film:** Dr Dolittle 2. (2001)

6.15 Film: Fairytale: A True Story. (1997) Fact-based drama, with Florence Hoath and Elizabeth Earl.

8.00 Once Upon a Time. Regina is suspected of murdering Archie.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: The Next Three Days. (2010) Premiere. Drama, starring Russell Crowe and Elizabeth Banks.

11.40 Film: 3:10 to Yuma. (2007) Western remake, starring Russell Crowe.

1.55 SuperCasino. **4.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **5.15** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.35** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Snog, Marry, Avoid? **7.30** Great Movie Mistakes **7.40 Film:** Madagascar (2005) **9.00** Bollywood Carmen Live **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** Russell Howard's Good News Extra

BBC Four
7.00 Dark Ages: An Age of Light **8.00** Aristotle's Lagoon **9.00** Britain Through a Lens: The Documentary Film Mob **10.00 Film:** The Kid with a Bike (2011) **11.20** Bobby Womack: Across 110th Street

ITV2
1.45 Britain's Got Talent: The Live Final **4.20** Britain's Got More Talent: The Live Final **5.25 Film:** Robots (2005) **7.10 Film:** Johnny English (2003) **9.00** Britain's Got More Talent Best & Worst: LOL Moments **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50** Big Rich Texas **11.50** Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Jason Donovan

ITV3
2.00 Lewis **4.00** Housewife, 49 **6.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** All the Queen's Men with Alan Titchmarsh **9.00 Film:** The Pianist (2002)

ITV4
11.30 Live British Touring Car Championship **6.00** French Open Tennis **8.00** Minder **9.00** Joey: The Man Who Conquered the TT **10.30 Film:** Nighthawks (1981)

E4
4.30 Revenge **5.30** Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** New Girl **8.00 Film:** The Wedding Planner (2001) **10.00** Inbetweeners **11.00** Alan Carr: Chatty Man

Film4
3.15 City of Ember (2008) **5.05** Addams Family Values (1993) **6.50** The Jewel of the Nile (1985) **9.00** Appaloosa (2008) **11.15** Changing Lanes (2002)

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Sat June 29th — Morning - Under 8s, 10s, 13s; Afternoon - Under 7s, 15s, 16s
Sun June 30th — Morning - Under 9s, 12s, 14s; Afternoon - Under 7(minor),11s 18s

Girl's Competition:
Sat June 29th — Morning - Under 9/10s; Afternoon - Under 13/14s
Sun June 30th — Morning - Under 11/12s; Afternoon - Under 15/16s

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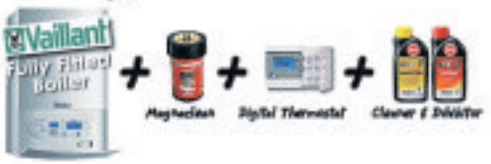

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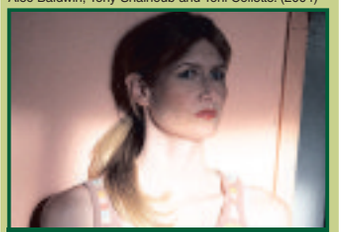
What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY
Don't Worry About Me, BBC1, 12.10am
Londoner David finds himself stranded in Liverpool after a night out and decides to head to the dog track to try to turn his pocket change into enough cash to buy a train ticket home. After following the tips of kindly stranger Tina, he achieves a big win and, to kill the hours before his train leaves, persuades her to show him around the city. Romantic drama directed by David Morrissey, starring James Brough. (2009)

TUESDAY
Jersey Girl, BBC1, 11.35pm
A heartbroken husband struggles to raise his baby daughter alone after the death of his beloved wife in childbirth. The pressure becomes too much and he loses his job, forcing him to leave New York and move in with his dad in New Jersey – but it is here where a new romance brings the promise of happiness back into his life. Kevin Smith's romantic comedy drama, with Ben Affleck, Liv Tyler and Jennifer Lopez. (2004)

WEDNESDAY
The Last Shot, BBC1, 12.05am
An FBI agent cooks up a scheme to capture an infamous Mafia boss. As part of the sting, he has to pose as a Hollywood producer – and even ends up agreeing to bankroll an aspiring director's film. However, the starstruck cop ends up putting the police operation on the back burner as he falls for the glamour of Tinseltown. Crime comedy, starring Matthew Broderick, Alec Baldwin, Tony Shalhoub and Toni Collette. (2004)


Inland Empire, Friday, ITV, 10.35pm

THURSDAY
King Solomon's Mines, Channel 4, 1.05pm
A soldier of fortune agrees to help a woman look for her husband, who went missing while searching for long-lost diamond mines in Africa. Together they journey into the uncharted heart of the vast continent, encountering danger along the way – and finding romance. Adventure based on H Rider Haggard's novel, with Stewart Granger, Deborah Kerr, Richard Carlson, Hugo Haas, Lowell Gilmore, Siriaque, Kimursi, Sekaryongo, Baziga, Munto Anampio, Ivargwema and John Banner. (1950)

FRIDAY
Inland Empire, ITV, 10.35pm
A Hollywood actress is given a coveted role in a movie based on a Polish folk tale. However, not only does she discover a previous attempt to film this story had ended in two murders, but also finds her grip on reality starting to slip as the line between fact and fiction begins to blur. David Lynch's mystery drama, starring Laura Dern, Jeremy Irons, Justin Theroux, Harry Dean Stanton, Diane Ladd, William H Macy, Julia Ormond and Naomi Watts. (2006)

Pick of the Week

Jenny hopes to make a good impression

Apart from an appointment with a doctor for 'personal problems', the first date is pretty much as awkward as it gets. The nervous wait in the bar; the first impression; the nagging feeling that this date will end in disaster, humiliation or rejection.

Whatever your thoughts on the subject, it's a universal truth that first dates are rarely plain sailing. While some are notable only as the source of hilarious stories, they are always one thing – memorable.

This compatibility-defining ritual seems a perfect fit for TV, a point finally taken on-board by Channel 4, who have enlisted Bryan Elsley, the director behind E4's Skins, and an ensemble of fine actors to bring the cringe-inducing subject to life.

Part of the channel's Mating Season, the nine-part drama Dates takes a step into the social minefield – a place where confessions, lies, crises of confidence and sexual confusion come together with dramatic and hilarious effect. The key ingredient in the project is the acting talent, which includes Andrew Scott, who played Moriarty in BBC's Sherlock, Neil Maskell, who played a cold, measured killer in Channel 4's Utopia and Sheridan Smith, who is in pretty much everything.

Talking of awkward moments, Smith, who first made her presence known as Antony's girlfriend in The Royle Family over ten years ago, remembers one disastrous first date involving a drunken suitor who'd had one red cocktail too many: "He took me to the bus stop, and we got on the night bus, and there were no seats, so we were stood up, and as we're swaying about holding on to the bar, I could see him turning slightly green. And before I knew it, I had red sick all down my dress."

It's the stuff of nightmares, and the kind of story we've heard countless times from friends, but when it comes to her character Jenny, a lonely school teacher, does she have any more luck? "The first one is with Neil Maskell, who's an amazing actor… when I heard he was in it, I was thrilled. And he was so lovely. Not like his character, put it that way! And then in my other episode, it was with Andrew Scott, who's a friend of mine who I've worked with before. There's a lot of laughter in that episode, and thank goodness, because we literally could not stop laughing."

A mixed bag, then, which sums up her choice of roles in recent years. From comedic outings in Benidorm and Gavin and Stacey, to serious roles like that of Charmian Biggs, wife of train robber Ronnie, in the ITV drama Mrs Biggs – for which she won a Bafta – it seems she succeeds in everything she does. A point proven by the fact that Dustin Hoffman gave her a role in his film Quartet after being moved to tears by her performance on stage in Flare Path.

Buses and vomit aside, Smith is clear on how her perfect first date should go: "I'm animal-mad, so my ideal date would probably be something involving going to see animals. And it's always nice to be swept off your feet a little bit. But my big thing is, make me laugh."

Sheridan Smith stars in Dates, Tuesday, Channel 4, 10pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
EastEnders
BBC1, 8pm
A lot has changed since Peter was last in Walford – his stepmum Jane has left, his twin sister has a new face, and his childhood sweetheart Lauren Branning is now an alcoholic. But the development that's puzzling him the most is why Lucy is now running the café instead of Ian. His dad is forced to explain about his breakdown, but also implies that Lucy took advantage of his vulnerable state to launch a hostile takeover of the Beale empire. Naturally, Lucy is keen to defend herself, but instead of trying to get the prodigal Beale back on side, perhaps she'd be better off asking him what he's been up to for the last three years, and just why he's suddenly returned…

The Gadget Show
Channel 5, 8pm
This week's show features Rachel Riley's report on the revolution in TV tech. Suffering for her art again, Pollyanna Woodward has jetted off to California to test a submersible and a water-propelled stunt bike, while Jon Bentley gives us a demo of convertible laptops for the new Windows 8 operating system. He's assisted by Jonathan Slinger, Paralympic rower James Roe, artist Kyle Lambert and Britain's fastest touch-typist Bethan Davis. And if that's not enough to pique your interest, there's also Two Door Cinema Club passing judgement on assorted music-streaming sites. In fact the only thing missing is the marvellous Suzi Perry. Let's hope producers finally see sense and let her back into the fold.

TUESDAY
Gibraltar: Britain in the Sun
Channel 5, 8pm
Sitting in the mouth of the Mediterranean, the British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar has long held a far greater significance than its size would otherwise suggest. But what's life like for the people living on the two and a half-square-mile rock? This enjoyable documentary aims to find out, by following some of the 30,000 natives, ex-pats and tourists who make their home among the slopes, sunshine and Barbary macaques of the island. They include Dr Eric Shaw, who is in charge of looking after the monkeys, and police officer Dylan Quigley, who has a few complications with an arrest.

WEDNESDAY
All Star Mr & Mrs
ITV, 8pm
One of the delights of tuning into the show is finding out which selection of guests will be appearing – the juxtaposition of some of them is, at times, rather weird and wonderful. That's definitely the case this week, when Ricky Tomlinson, who's still best known for his role as Jim in The Royle Family, and his wife Rita feature alongside runner Paula Radcliffe and her husband, coach Gary Lough. Also appearing will be Strictly Come Dancing professionals Ola and James Jordan; seeing as they both work and live together, they must know each other rather well, or so you would think.

The Iraq War
BBC2, 9pm
The first two programmes in this fascinating series have looked back the conflict, but the final edition brings the story right up to date. Former foreign secretary Jack Straw reveals how he and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made Iraq's Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafaari step down, but the problem of finding somebody to replace him then reared its ugly head. Stephen Hadley, US National Security Advisor, explains that it was delegates from his country who suggested Nouri Maliki was an excellent choice – and sure enough, he took office in 2006. But it's the report on the levels of violence still prevalent in Iraq that send the most shivers down the spine.

THURSDAY
Big Brother: Secrets & Lies Live Launch Part 1, Channel 5, 9pm
Emma Willis has taken over as presenter of the returning reality show, which is hardly surprising considering she did such as good show of fronting the sister show, Big Brother's Bit on the Side. The fly-on-the-wall reality show is now on its 14th season, and the scary thing is many teenagers have never known a time without the Diary Room, Marcus Bentley's narration or the assorted wannabe celebs who started off as Guinea pigs and wound up using the show as a launch pad to kick start their own showbiz career. This time the Orwellian abode has had an eco-style makeover in line with this year's self-sufficiency theme.

Big Brother: Secrets & Lies Live Launch Part 1, Thursday, Channel 5, 9pm

FRIDAY
Harbour Lives
ITV, 8pm
Usually, when Ben Fogle turns up on our screens, it's because he's trekking up a mountain, rowing across the Atlantic or roughing it in a yurt in Alaska. So this new series, which finds him exploring Dorset, should feel like a real holiday – especially as he begins his journey in Sandbanks. As you'd expect, properties with such an exclusive address come with a hefty price tag attached, and estate agent Adrian Dunford reveals his company sold £50million-worth of bricks and mortar there last year alone. To see exactly what £5million will get you in Sandbanks, Ben takes a tour of one of the properties currently up for sale.

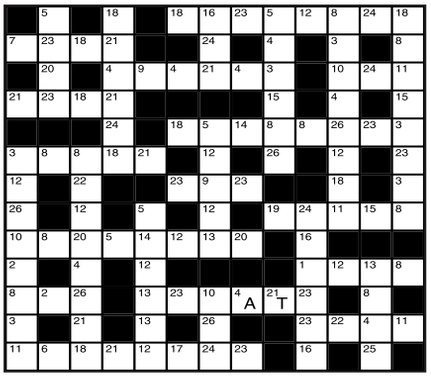
Big Brother's Bit on the Side
Channel 5, 10.30pm
If you fancy a successful career in showbusiness, you could do worse than front a Big Brother spin-off show. After all Dermot O'Leary, Russell Brand and Emma Willis have all earned their stripes reporting on latest developments in the Big Brother house. Bouncing from one reality show to the next is X Factor reject and Celebrity Big Brother winner Rylan Clark, who will be adding his pearls of wisdom to the proceedings.

Brain Gym

No.224

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

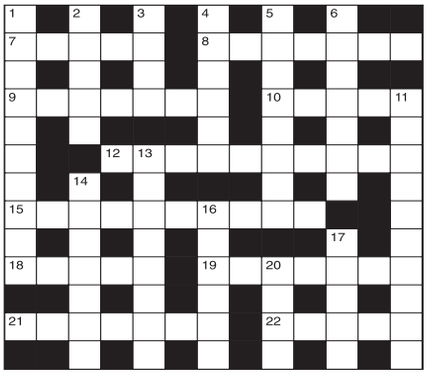


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 S	2 M	3 V	4 K	5 J	6 W	7 P	8 R	9 O	10 A	11 Y	12 X	13 Z
14 U	15 H	16 D	17 T	18 G	19 C	20 L	21 F	22 I	23 E	24 N	25 B	26 Q

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. A payment for a coral island (5)
8. Moral consideration of little weight? (7)
9. Hold in great affection (7)
10. Emblem of the brave (5)
12. They promise good, but bring none (5,5)
15. Makes a translation the printer set all wrong (10)
18. Seems to make appearances (5)
19. Not to agree to a full reorganisation (4,3)
21. He hopes to have a successful run (7)
22. A fascinating creature newly risen (5)

Down

1. But she's unlikely to rush into marriage! (6,4)
2. It's charitable to give its benefit (5)
3. Some simple answer as an excuse (4)
4. Value fools to a point (6)
5. A note of whimsy? (8)
6. Grave words (7)
11. Support for a player (5,5)
13. Stopped sorting out re-treads (8)
14. A prize for waste! (7)
16. It helps to keep a roof over one's head (6)
17. The directors don't sound very keen (5)
20. Failed - for want of direction? (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Sullen (5)
8. Bowers (7)
9. Rich (7)
10. Entice (5)
12. Loud-voiced (10)
15. Arsonist (10)
18. Artless (5)
19. Suffer (7)
21. Spin (7)
22. Short (5)

Down

1. Burden (10)
2. Sham (5)
3. Kind (4)
4. Hurry (6)
5. Slaughterhouse (8)
6. Tumult (7)
11. System of musical notation (5,3-2)
13. Fondly (8)
14. Attain (7)
16. Hardened (6)
17. Coach (5)
20. Liability (4)

Sudoku

		1		7		4		
	3				8		7	
4			5		9			8
		5	2		1	3		
7	4						8	
		3	7	8	4	5		
2			3		6			4
	5					8	2	
		4		1		7		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	1	2	5	3	9	6	7	4
3	5	4	6	8	7	9	2	1
6	7	9	1	4	2	8	3	5
7	2	1	9	6	8	5	4	3
4	3	8	7	1	5	2	6	9
5	9	6	4	2	3	1	8	7
9	8	7	2	5	4	3	1	6
1	4	3	8	9	6	7	5	2
2	6	5	3	7	1	4	9	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Scratched; 8 Ego; 9 Well-endowed; 11 Heave to; 12 Guide; 13 Scions; 15 Fright; 17 Might; 18 Imprint; 20 Opera singer; 22 Eel; 23 Sceptical. Down: 2 Cue; 3 There; 4 Hudson; 5 Dowager; 6 Wedding ring; 7 Hottentot; 10 Leading role; 11 Hush money; 14 Nutmegs; 16 Pirate; 19 Point; 21 Era. QUICK - Across: 1 Quintuple; 8 One; 9 Declaration; 11 Tangles; 12 Their; 13 Avenge; 15 Lesion; 17 Satan; 18 Absence; 20 Arrangement; 22 Rot; 23 Literally. Down: 2 Use; 3 Trail; 4 Praise; 5 Epistle; 6 Convenience; 7 Deference; 10 Concentrate; 11 Transport; 14 General; 16 Magnet; 19 Steer; 21 Nil.

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VIETNAM and Cambodia

The beautiful country of Vietnam is a mosaic of mist-shrouded mountains, vibrant green forests, a patch-work of rice paddies and pristine white beaches, whilst its villages and cities are custodians of the culture and monuments of a unique 2,000 year old civilisation.

In the past few years Vietnam has opened its doors to the world and much has changed. Today, in one of the world's last communist countries, the motorcycles and western dress of the youth happily co-exist with orange-clad Buddist monks and political posters from a different era.

On this 16-day tour you will visit Hue, one of the country's most beautiful small towns and the former imperial capital. Here you will be able to see the amazing Citadel and its imperial Forbidden City, as well as the magnificent seven-storied Thien Mu pagoda, a working Buddhist shrine.

Contorted by years of erosion, explore the staggeringly beautiful rock formations of Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site from on board a converted Chinese junk. Then in Saigon you will be taken on a visit to the Cu Chi tunnels, a complex underground network which provided a base for the Vietcong from which to attack US forces. You will see the tunnels themselves and examples of the many mantraps and stake pits which protected them.

The overwhelming image of Vietnam is that of a country blessed with extraordinary beauty and the friendly Vietnamese always courteous and proud to show of their wonderful country.

In Cambodia you can experience the haunting soft morning light rise over the eerie temples of Angkor. Then later discover the huge fortified 13th century city of Angkor Thom, with its five monumental gates, and 300ft wide moat – its centre containing one of Angkor's most remarkable sites, the temple of Bayon.

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SCAFFELL ROAD AMBLECOTE

A very well presented three bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Reception hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, three bedrooms and family bathroom. The property further benefits from having garage, off road parking, rear garden, gas central heating and double glazing.
PART FURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£600PCM

LANSDOWNE COURT STOURBRIDGE

A well presented two bedroom first floor Apartment situated in a desirable residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Communal entrance, private entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, master with en suite, and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, communal gardens and En Bloc garage. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£550PCM

ASHFIELD CRESCENT WOLLESCOTE

A well presented three bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprise of lounge, kitchen, conservatory, three bedrooms, and house bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, enclosed rear garden and paved foregarden affording off road parking UNFURNISHED
EPC RATING = E DSS:NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS:NO

£525PCM

THE QUARTER CLARENCE STREET UPPER GORNAL

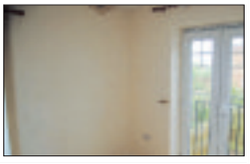
An Extremely well presented two bedroom terrace property situated in a popular residential location. The accommodation comprises of lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating and double glazing.
Unfurnished DSS:YES PETS:NO CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:NO

£525PCM

WORCESTER STREET STOURBRIDGE

A two bedroom mid terrace property situated in a popular residential location close to Stourbridge Town Centre. Accommodation comprises of kitchen, diner, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, partial double glazing, rear garden and off road parking to the rear.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:NO

£525pcm



THE QUARTER CLARENCE STREET

An extremely well presented two bedroom property situated in a popular residential location. The accommodation comprises of entrance, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom, and two bedrooms. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking.
UNFURNISHED DSS: May Consider Pets: No Children:Yes Smokers:No

£525PCM

LINDEN ROAD PRIORY ESTATE DUDLEY

An extremely well presented refurbished three bedroom semi detached property. Accommodation comprises of entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen including appliances, bathroom, three bedrooms and WC. The property further benefits from gas fire central heating, double glazing and front and rear gardens. Viewing Highly recommended.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D
DSS: NO PETS:NO CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:NO

£495PCM

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HENZEL CROFT BRIERLEY HILL

A Beautifully presented two bedroom second floor apartment situated in a new development close to Brierley Hill and Merry Hill centres. The accommodation comprises: Communal entrance hall with entry phone system, private entrance hall, through lounge diner, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing, electric heating, communal gardens with allocated parking and visitor bays.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£475PCM

DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL

A well presented two bedroom town house with accommodation to comprise of : Entrance hall, lounge with gas fire, kitchen with gas cooker, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing and allocated parking space. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = F
DSS: NO CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£475.00 PCM

SOUTH PARK MEWS BRIERLEY HILL

A well presented modern two bedroom semi detached property having easy access to Brierley Hill and Merry Hill Centre. The accommodation comprises of entrance hall, lounge with feature fireplace, fully fitted breakfast kitchen, bathroom and two bedrooms. The property further benefits from gas fire central heating, double glazing, off road parking, and a landscaped rear garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO PETS: CAT ONLY CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO

£475PCM

DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL

An attractive modern starter home situated in a popular residential location with accomodation to comprise of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, two Bedrooms and Shower Room. The property also benefits from sealed unit Double Glazing, small fore Garden and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E
DSS: NO SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: YES

£450PCM

UPPER ASHLEY STREET HALESOWEN

A one bedroom starter home situated in a quiet residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance Hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, double bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from partial gas central heating, driveway affording off road parking and enclosed side garden with patio area and storage shed. PART FURNISHED
EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£440PCM

WILTSHIRE DRIVE

A well presented one bedroom first floor flat situated in a popular residential location. The accommodation comprises: Entrance hall with staircase to first floor landing, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom and Double Bedroom. The property further benefits from GCH, Double Glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN:NO SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO

£395PCM

NETHEREND LANE CRADLEY HEATH

An extremely well presented one bedroom ground floor flat situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of lounge, kitchen. bathroom and bedroom. The property further benefits from double glazing and storage heaters. UNFURNISHED
EPC RATING = C DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN:NO SMOKERS:NO

£375PCM

DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL

A well presented one bedroom ground floor apartment situated in a popular residential location and benefitting from double glazing and allocated parking. The accommodation comprises: Entrance Porch, Open plan Lounge/Kitchen, Inner Hall with built-in airing cupboard, Bathroom and Bedroom. UNFURNISHED
EPC RATING = D DDS: NO CHILDREN: NO SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO

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DOVE DRIVE AMBLECOTE

A well presented one bedroom ground floor apartment in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of: Lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower and double bedroom. The property further benefits from gas fire, electric panel heating and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: NO SMOKERS :NO

£360PCM

Versatile home with up to four bedrooms

This three-storey home in Attingham Drive, Dudley is on the market via estate agents Swinscoes

A THREE-STOREY town house in a quiet cul-de-sac in Attingham Drive, Dudley, is for sale for offers around £169,950.

Within walking distance of local amenities, schools and transport links, the property has on the ground floor an entrance hallway, bedroom three with en suite, bedroom four/dining room and utility room.

On the first floor are a dining kitchen and lounge and on the second a master bedroom with en suite and bedroom two with en suite, with the home also benefitting from gas central heating, uPVC double glazing, low maintenance rear garden and parking for two to three cars.

On the ground floor bedroom three is 11ft by 9ft 6in with an en suite of WC, pedestal wash hand basin and double shower cubicle with bedroom four/dining room having french doors to the rear garden.

There is also a utility room with units, work surface and plumbing for appliances.

On the first floor the lounge, 16ft 2in by 17ft 1in, has French doors to a Juliet balcony and feature fireplace while the dining kitchen – 16ft 2in by 11ft 1in – has a range of wall and floor units, work surfaces, stainless steel one-and-a-half bowl sink drainer, integrated oven and gas hob with extractor over, space for fridge/freezer and plumbing for dishwasher.

On the second floor are two bedrooms, both en suite bedroom one with WC, pedestal wash hand basin, bath and separate shower cubicle and bedroom two with WC, pedestal wash hand basin and shower cubicle.

Outside the rear garden is set over two tiers with patio and lawns.

Call estate agent Swinscoes on 01902 672274 for more details.

The first floor lounge includes a feature fireplace

The dining room or a bedroom – the choice could be yours

Extended semi on the market

Double gates on the driveway lead to the garage of the semi in Coseley

AN extended semi within easy reach of Sedgley, Coseley, Wolverhampton and Dudley is for sale priced at £119,950.

The property in Hurst Road, Coseley, has gas central heating and double glazing, a wet room on the ground floor with shower, WC and pedestal wash hand basin.

The kitchen has a stainless steel single drainer inset sink, base, drawer and wall units, work surfaces, electric cooker point, gas point and plumbing for washing machine while the lounge – 15ft 5in by 14ft 11in – has a feature brick fire surround and the dining/sun lounge is 14ft by 5ft 4in.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom.

Outside is a garage, with the house approached via a driveway and parking area with gardens to the front and rear including shrubs, borders and fish pond.

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BRIERLEY HILL NEW

DADFORD VIEW
£450 pcm
Mid Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Front Garden, DSS Considered

WALL HEATH NEW

FELLOWS AVENUE
£725 pcm
Detached Property, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen/Diner, Utility Area, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Large Gardens, Off Road Parking, Garage

BROCKMOOR NEW

HIGH STREET
£495 pcm
Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, DSS Considered, Rear Garden

DUDLEY NEW

LIMES ROAD
£525 pcm
Modern Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD NEW

DUDLEY ROAD
£725 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Large Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Recently refurbished

DUDLEY

BOURNE STREET
£375 pcm
Modern Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, Large Bedroom, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Allocated Parking

KINGSWINFORD

GREENCROFT
£600 pcm
Bungalow, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Parking for 2 cars, Unfurnished

PENSNETT

CHURCH STREET
£550 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking

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LANSDOWNE CRT, HAGLEY ROAD
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BROCKMOOR

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Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage, Off Road Parking

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PENSNETT

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DUDLEY

STOURBRIDGE ROAD
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Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

HALESOWEN

ATTWOOD STREET
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Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazed, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Rear Garden

BRIERLEY HILL

DADFORD VIEW
£460 pcm
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PENSNETT

HIGH STREET
£410 pcm
First Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished

PENSNETT

HIGH STREET
£320 pcm
Split Level Flat, Entrance Hall, Large Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Yard

BRIERLEY HILL

DADFORD VIEW
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Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front Garden, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished.

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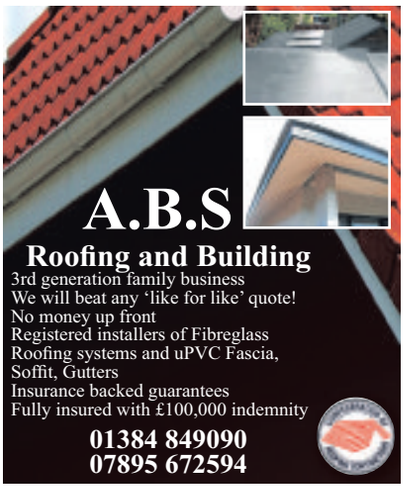

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LOST—African Grey Parrot, May 17, in the Wombourne area. Any information please contact 07989 292521. Reward for return.

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religious notices

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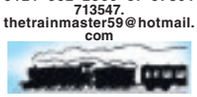

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5 Business & Farming

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MICROCAR M GO, 2010, Mot July, tax to end July, good condition, £6,500. Telephone 01384 486036.

MITSUBISHI SPACE STAR 2005
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£2,495. 07788 990608 (Kidderminster)

PEUGEOT 107 URBAN LITE, 60 plate, 2011, red, 37,000 miles, 2 owners, fsh, good condition, £3,500. 07821 601953.

PEUGEOT 206 Quicksilver, 1.4, 54 reg, 17ins black alloys, 49,000 miles, four months MoT, good condition, £1,600. 0121 5020173

RENAULT CLIO CAMPUS SPORT
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SKODA FABIA 1.2 HTPi, 59reg, met red, one lady owner, 15k, 2 services, tax/Mot Sept. Excellent condition. £4,900. 07967 662992.

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VAUXHALL CORSA Special edition, 06 reg, Red, 3dr, tax, MoT, Diesel, alloys, 93K, good condition. £2,400 ono. 07999 353381.

VAUXHALL CORSA twinport 1.2, 2005, 5dr, MoT May 2014, tax till July, 60,000 miles, lady owner from 2005, £2,000 ono. 01902 752723.

VW PASSAT diesel estate,1 owner, immaculate condition, 29k, FSH, registered Sept 09. £10,299. 01384 374047.

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FORD DORCHESTER SCORPIO GRANADA, black, S Reg, 2.3 engine, 35,000 miles, offers around £850. 07989 220184.

FORD ESCORT Cabriolet R reg, 12 months MoT, 25,000 on new engine, smart car with alloys, £650 ono. 01384 878334.

FORD FIESTA 1.3. Y reg (01), 44K miles, 12 months MoT, tax, £550. 01902 563822

FORD FIESTA FREESTYLE 1.2, 02, 80k, blue, c/l, pas, tax, alloys, a/c, £625 ono. 01889 584374.

FORD FOCUS 1.4LX 2002/52 reg, 12 months MoT, 5dr, AC, alloys, £1,275 ono. 07923 132859.

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MITSUBISHI PAJERO SWB turbo diesel, taxed, years MoT, private plate, £1,195. 07817 745205.

NISSAN MICRA 1.3i, 1999, low insurance, red, 61k, long MoT, sunroof, reliable car, £700 no offers. 07939 957956.

NISSAN MICRA Profile, 16v, 1999, 64,400 miles, red, MoT, pas, tax, £700. 07508 343422.

PEUGEOT 206 1.4LX, 48,000 miles new battery and exhaust, 6 months tax, 7 months MoT, mint condition inside, £950 ono. 07849 100212.

PEUGEOT 306 Roland Garros, 1.6, M reg, green, cream ½ leather, MoT, alloys, 1 lady owner from new, £800 ono. 07886 566477.

PEUGEOT 607, 51 reg, Auto petrol, 84,000 miles, tax, MoT, all extras, red leather interior, £975 ono. Telephone 01384 370150.

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ROVER 45 5-dr hatchback, 1.8, black, 35k miles, long MoT, excellent condition, £1,200. 01902 738426.

SKODA FELICIA 1.3, T reg., 5-door, blue, full MoT, taxed, 61k, sunroof, stereo, economical, £495. 07964 350386.

SUZUKI BALENO, blue, 1.6, MoT, tax, 65k miles, £700 ono. Telephone 07500 743675.

TOYOTA RAV 4, 98, 103k, tax and MoT to January, black, 2.0L petrol, CL, RC, EW, service history, £1,200 o.n.o. 07930 374986.

VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB 1.0, 2002, 88,000 miles, MoT Feb 2014, tax July 2013, £1,000 ono. 07825 232772.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 7 seater club, 2001, tax/MoT, lovely condition £775. 07967 301006

VOLVO 940 2.3, 1995, silver, long MoT, tax, CD, petrol, £650. 01384 823525.

classic cars

TOYOTA MR2 Mk1, 1989, red, immaculate condition / original, one lady owner, 40,000 miles, £4,000 ono. 01785 840066

commercial vehicles

FORD TRANSIT VAN 2004, excellent runner, taxed and MoT'd, £2,100. 07534 519464.

PEUGEOT PARTNER van, 1.9 diesel, 1998, 198,000, MoT / tax Nov, very reliable, smart interior. £450. 07970 659149.

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motorbikes

AJS-CRAZY 50cc scooter, tax till next Feb, £800 ono. Ring for details 07914 386453.

HONDA CBR 6001998, taxed, MoT'd, very good condition. Low mileage. Sold with extras. £1,700 ono. 07943 120733.

KYMCO AGILITY 125, June 2012, silver, immaculate, under 2,000 miles, fsh, warranty, must sell hence £950 ono. 07941 649991.

SUZUKI BANDIT, 1999, GSF600, 12,000 miles, vgc, new back tyre, full service history, MoT July. £1,500 ono. 01939 260870.

SUZUKI GSXR 1000 K6 10k, 12 months tax, 6 months MoT, blue and white, excellent condition. £5,000 o.n.o. 07876 453448.

SUZUKI INTRUDERVS600 GL, 1996, 8,000 dry miles, mint condition, Taxed, MoT'd. £1,900 ono. 07954 177136 / 01902 675203.

WANTED British and Japanese motorbikes, any condition, also parts/spares, cash paid. 01902 562154 or 07956 447567.

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010 NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 11 OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Proposed development at:

Land to North of 26 Paxton Road, Lye, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY9 8YD

Take notice that application is being made by:

Mr P. Ajram

For planning permission to:

Remove trees to facilitate construction of new retaining wall.

Local Planning Authority to whom the application is being submitted:

Dudley M.B.C., Directorate of the Urban Environment, 4 Ednam Road, Dudley, DY1 1HL

Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about the application, should write to the council within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Signatory

Mr Michael Lay (Agent)

6th June 2013

Statement of owner's rights: The grant of planning permission does not affect owners' rights to retain or dispose of their property, unless there is some provision to the contrary in an agreement or lease.

Statement of agricultural tenants' rights: The grant of planning permission for non-agricultural development may affect agricultural tenants' security of tenure.

'Owner' means a person having a freehold interest or a leasehold interest the unexpired term of which is not less than seven years.

'Tenant' means a tenant of an agricultural holding any part of which is comprised in the land.

10 Personals

personal

ATTRACTIVE YOUNG 72 YEAR OLD LADY
WLTM a gentleman of similar age for friendship/companionship, enjoys dining out, holidays.
Photo appreciated and returned.
Box Number P18602 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN 69
Honest, caring, easy going, likes days out, holidays, meals out, WLTM widow lady for friendship / relationship. Hagley, Kingswinford, Stourbridge and surrounding areas.
Box Number P18598 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN YOUNG 71
Honest, loving and caring, likes days out or cosy nights in, also 50's, 60's music, own car, WLTM lady 60 - 70 for Friendship / Relationship.
Box Number P18597 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENUINE HONEST GUY
Attractive, 6'1, blue eyes, shaven head, non smoker, easy going, with GSOH, likes cinema, eating out, walks and weekends away etc. WLTM genuine lady, slim to medium build, easy going with a GSOH, between 40 and 50 for lots of laughs and TLC.
Box Number P18596 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

IS THERE A MAN 70+
On his own who would like to spend time with me and form a good Friendship.
I am easy to get on with and will cook a meal,
I would like to meet someone from Stourbridge, Brierley Hill or Dudley.
If Car owner, will share expenses.
Box Number P18605, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

PROFESSIONAL MALE
40's, 5ft 8, slim, handsome, solvent and genuine. Non smoker, sporty, loves travel, culture, theatre, cinema etc. Seeks special lady 35 - 50 for LTR.
Photo appreciated (returned).
Box Number P18604 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

WORDSLEY WASPS NORTH JFC
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Division 1 Champions for 2 years running.
Are looking for school year 6 players in all positions for our sucessful football team.
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sports clubs

PHOENIX YOUTH FC
We are now recruiting players in all of our age groups, ready for next Season.
Current Under 8's, Under 9's, Under 10's, Under 12's, Under 13's, Under 15's and our mini kickers.
For more information contact Andy
07725 002381.

WIGHTWICK WARRIORS FC
Are looking for Under 11 players for next season, all outfield positions. A club where you don't pay any subscriptions, free to play. Home and away, Football kit, tracksuit, wet top and training kit will be supplied.
Contact Paul on 07730 152111

general

BURIAL PLOT for 4 people, only for cremated remains, Bushbury Crematorium, offers. Telephone 01902 786066.

POMPEII EXHIBITION
British Museum, London. **£34** or shopping trip. **£20.** Monday, July 22.
Price includes ticket and return coaching.
01902 673982.

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- 2 weeks listing on www.jobs.expressandstar.com and www.jobs.shropshirestar.com

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(09065 cost £1.53p/m)

Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 60109
(T&C's below)

SINGLE LADIES

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

HI I am Lorna 39yr old slim female, 5ft 5ins, many interests, loves music, seeking romantic male to enjoy special times together, hopefully leading to true love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404353**

KAZ blue eyed bubbly female 38, full of life, OHAC, employed, looking for nice N/S responsible middle aged male for fun times, nothing serious. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405095**

APRIL, lovely 21yrs old curvy girl seeks mature male to nurture me in every way, looks unimportant, must be experienced. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 403931**

CRYSTAL sweet loving kind 28yr old female, fun loving with lots of interests, looking for male, any age/looks for company, hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405067**

ANNA 38yr old friendly female seeking similar considerate male to enjoy nice quiet loving times together with good humour and affection. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404561**

GILL green eyes, fair hair, medium built, shy, many interests, loves animals, countryside, walking, WLTM male for companionship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404549**

WIDOW young hearted 70's, N/S, likes reading, concerts, gardening, meals out, WLTM younger gentleman with similar interests. Stafford area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404177**

SHARON medium built lovely, 33yrs, pale complexion, nice eyes, feminine, outgoing, confident, enjoys varied interests, WLTM all round nice guy for adult relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403345**

DISCREET kind man sought by married lady, must be discreet and reliable as am I. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 355785**

CAROL South African lonely heart 37yrs, looking for fun with mature gent 50plus, likes dining in/out, discretion assured/appreciated. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403337**

WIDOW seeking similar aged male to share holidays and weekends out. Car owner preferred. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389795**

SUSIE fun loving mum with GSOH seeks gentle considerate to get to know better. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404627**

JANE 48yrs West Midlands, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, looking for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403949**

48YR old attractive female seeking local fun maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403947**

CHRISSY 39 blonde, blue eyes, likes meals/days out, loves life and looking for someone new to share fun loving easygoing relationship, 30-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404827**

SHAZ 33 easygoing voluptuous black female with lovely smile and personality to match, loves music, keeping fit and looking good, WLTM appreciative guy **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404819**

HI I'm Jo a very gorgeous 38yr old very large built 40DD, confident, sensual BBW, looking for older male for no strings fun times, think you can handle me? Call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404699**

TALL leggy size 14 feminine ex plus size model, loves travel, walking, keeping fit and appreciating life, WLTM easygoing, generous male for adult companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404673**

WOMAN 55yrs old, N/S, size 14, likes animals, nature, reading, tv, quiet life, seeks man 45-55, N/S for friendship, maybe more. Staffordshire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404447**

IVY 45yrs young, attractive, tall, slim but very voluptuous looking for guaranteed fun times with 70yrs plus male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404349**

32YR old slim, dark haired, adventurous, creative, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753**

SENSUAL cuddly 32yr old professional looking for similar minded discreet male up to 40yrs for 1-2-1 fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404023**

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325**

KIND romantic female, 50, seeking a male to talk, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368429**

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651**

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852**

43YR old female, bubbly, down to earth, trustworthy, honest, caring, seeks male, 45 plus. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402945**

APRIL big bubbly 21yr old female who enjoys nights in/out, music, WLTM caring, loving older male, 30-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402789**

LONG haired blonde, 37, enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361076**

TALL curvy female, 36dd, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 359238**

ELIZABETH 33, curvy attractive blonde, likes walking, socialising, meals out, entertaining, WLTM well educated nice male 50-60's for nice times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403937**

HI I'm Jayne very pretty brunette, stylish, fun, loves the 60's, fine wine/restaurants, seeks professional gent for mutual life enhancement. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403749**

LISA 38yrs, tall slim attractive, broadminded, easygoing, loves cooking, homemaking, nice wine looking for very discreet solvent male 50-90yrs to pamper me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403733**

35YR old female, seeks intelligent, down to earth male, 50-75 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388297**

PICK AN ADVERT AND MAKE A DATE TODAY!

TO REPLY TO ADS WITH TEXT THE BOX NUMBER TO SHORT CODE 63222. i.e. TEXT: 123456 to short code 63222

JANE attractive, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403807**

KEELEY 18yr old slim broadminded blonde, blue eyes, enjoys most things in life, WLTM older guy for fun meets. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403581**

JULIE gorgeous 40, loves the outdoors, theatre, WLTM energetic open-minded fun male up to 60yrs who like me is very loving and tactile. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403571**

TINA fun loving single mum who enjoys most things in life, seeking happy guy with GSOH for meals in, dates out, possible romance and adult companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403567**

61YR old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409**

BIG is beautiful! Female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368528**

SLIM fit, bubbly female can't wait to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367066**

ATTRACTIVE lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399245**

CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127**

AMY 19yr old single female looking for much older naughty male for discreet fun times only. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403381**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852**

BIG bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501**

DAWN attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WLTM tall, fit male with get up and go attitude towards life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375825**

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313115**

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407**

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979**

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTM male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681**

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378295**

LIZ 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949**

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106**

BERNIE Beautiful black lady with no ties seeks her King, curvy, intelligent, feminine and all you will ever need, what are you waiting for? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402991**

ALISON 37 animal loving female who enjoys a quiet life, cooking, seeks older respectful male 42-60yrs to enjoy meals out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402793**

HI I am Sara 21, a petite single mum, sporty, caring and looking for reliable, well groomed male 30-40yrs for adult 1-2-1. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402771**

JEANETTE 35, blonde blue eyed attractive active nurse who really cares about people, WLTM someone genuine and honest to fall in love with. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402655**

LISA 30's tall slim beauty looking for dining partner to romance, pamper and appreciate me in return for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402645**

SUE 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223**

IRENE 55, blonde hair, brown eyes, loving, caring, genuine, N/S, lots of love to give, seeks male, 55-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392807**

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818**

PROFESSIONAL tall, slim, attractive, bubbly, genuine lady, seeks tall, professional, genuine guy, 40-50. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 215244**

SLIM curvy blonde, 44, professional, seeks tall, professional male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 171231**

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, average looks, likes reading, meals out, cinema, theatre, quiet pubs, honest, genuine, kind, caring, GSOH, seeks male, 42-58. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391308**

SINGLE MEN

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 60109.
(T&C's below).

ROD 39, rugby physique, likes outdoors, motorsport, boating, pubs, meals out, seeks female company to enjoy good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404787**

JOE 45 attractive medical professional, GSOH, looking for the 50 shades experience with likeminded lady for fun and games. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404639**

BROADMINDED 42yr old male, GSOH, caring, loving good personality seeks female for fun friendship, relationship and adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404623**

CARING male looking for LTR with lady 50's-60's, 17stone plus. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404585**

TONY semi-retired teacher with lots of interests including sport, theatre, walking, OHAC, WLTM professional female to share interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404637**

SINGLE male 59, no ties, honest, loyal, serene nature, seeks mature female with the view to becoming lifetime soul mates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404527**

GARY 39 seeks female 30-50 for fun, maybe relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404487**

ASIAN male 6, 5ft 8ins, slim-medium build, caring, kind, GSOH, WLTM single female 35-45 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404453**

ROUGH diamond 45 looking for older lady, the older the better, for fun times, can accommodate, let me entertain you. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404437**

MALE 73yrs fit, N/S, OHAC, WLTM slim lady of similar age for days out, holidays and walking. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403895**

45YR old British Asian male, 5ft 9ins, slim-medium build, kind, caring, GSOH, likes romantic meals, nights in, films, music, walks, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403631**

TALL blue eyed 49yr old gent, N/S looking for soul mate, slim lady with no ties and plenty of love to give and receive, is that you? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404121**

KIND caring gent 41. 5ft 11ins, fit build, WLTM similar lady for friendship, maybe more, likes music, the outdoors and eating out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404055**

COVENTRY male, single, 6ft 1ins, 42, caring, GSOH, loves animals, Tai Chi, seeks female, 20-55, single mums ok, any nationality for nice times in/out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384677**

5FT 7ins male, looking for lady, 30-40 in Leamington Spa/Warwickshire area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403731**

BLACK guy 67, feels 50, looks 40, fit, active, seeks N/S, genuine, caring female with GSOH, 63-70yrs for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404255**

RETIRED 45yr old male, likes travel home/abroad, eating out, WLTM caring lady for friendship, maybe more. Shropshire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404237**

ANDY 46, looking for female, 40 plus for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403869**

MIKE 43yrs, 5ft 10ins, short brown hair, blue eyes, loving, caring personality, very genuine, WLTM lady 20-40yrs for LTR. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403901**

MIKE 45, bored, seeks female, any age for adult fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403461**

JOHN 59, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, GSOH, seeks lady, 46-55, likes meals out and in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403273**

SINGLE male, 60, WLTM local lady with strong physical needs for regular contact with no commitment initially. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377459**

VINCE 52, caring, seeking female for fun and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401683**

TALL dark, good looking male, 53, seeks attractive female for daytime fun and exciting times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393380**

ROBERT 72, young looking, retired carpenter, N/S, non-drinker, seeks kind, black lady in Wolverhampton area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403641**

CARL 40, likes DVDs, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393766**

BRIAN 60's, ordinary man, strong needs, seeks affectionate lady for close friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396765**

ATTRACTIVE male, 55, seeks older female, 50-70 for close, adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397189**

60'S male, medium build, fit, high drive, seeks West Midlands lady who needs occasional male evening/weekend company. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 381307**

45YR old British Asian male, 5ft 9ins, slim-medium build, kind, caring, GSOH, likes romantic meals, nights in, films, music, walks, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403631**

GARY kind, caring, seeks special lady, any age for fun times and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403585**

MICHAEL 50, nice eyes, seeking female companion for holidays and weekends away, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401479**

ATTRACTIVE male, late 40's, seeks attractive female for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311713**

TIGER Woods lookalike seeks mature, big, beautiful lady for fun and frolics. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403867**

29YR old male, likes holidays, cinema, clubs, seeks female for friendship and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403759**

PAUL 60, medium build, fit, virile with strong needs, WLTM West Midland lady for regular mutual pleasure. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 374821**

PATRICK 60's, single, likes sports, music, reading, seeks lady friend to share evenings/weekend meetings together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396053**

WEST Midlands single guy 60, strong, WLTM affectionate lady, your place or mine for uncommitted enjoyment. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396807**

WARREN 60's, romantic, WLTM affectionate lady for evenings/weekend meetings and close friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392191**

32YR old slim, dark haired, adventurous, creative, caring, likes music, cycling, photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753**

STEVE 63, tall, fit, young outlook, likes travel, socialising, holidays, N/S, seeks local lady, 55-60 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402931**

MALE 5ft 8ins, athletic, GSOH, seeks older lady for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402357**

HARDWORKING 41yr old male, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403131**

KARL 40, fun loving, caring, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389662**

GENUINE good looking male, 38, seeking genuine female, 25-45 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392233**

GAY SINGLES

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to meet or chat to other men, look no further.
TXT: **GAY247** to **60109**
www.localgaydate.co.uk

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892**

LESBIAN lady early 50's animal lover, smoker, own vehicle, likes caravanning, seeks local lady 43-55 for friendship, possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404669**

MEN TEXT FOR FUN!

*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. **Texts cost £1.50** per message Help Desk: **0844 445 7707**

OK so I'm single, have been for way to long now and thought I'd give this site a try! Not really sure what to expect?? **Text INGA to 60109**

I love life and I love living life. I enjoy the outdoors, travelling, restaurants, laughing, going to cultural events, and socialising **Text LISA45 to 60109**

LOOKING for honest ppl.love going out n haveing fun. im a happy go lucky person always got a smile on my face **Text BRITTA to 60109**

BASICALLY I'm a fun person. I'm outgoing, confident, and live life to the full. **Text KATRIN to 60109**

YOU dont stop laughing because you grow old, you grow old because you stop laughing. **Text JENNY23 to 60109**

IM not really a girly girl. I'd much rather stay at home with a dvd and lots of cuddles :) **Text PAM31 to 60109**

I'M a chilled out individual who enjoys socialising . I'm looking for a guy with a gsoh, who can make me laugh **Text DANIELLA to 60109**

I looking for someone to share my passion for travel, cooking, and most of all cuddles :) **Text PAIGE to 60109**

MMMMM me??? Im down to earth with a cheeky sense of humour and enjoy spending time with family and friends!! **Text JONNA to 60109**

JUST waiting for the right guy. Are you the one? How about we find out if you're the one. Send me a message and I'm sure to reply. **Text CHESKY to 60109**

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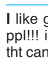

FUN loving,sensitive shy but extrovert, naughty but nice. very stubborn and strong willed which is why i need a real man **Text EMMA27 to 60109**

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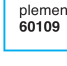

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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Lunar's camper car is a new concept

LUNAR has announced its return to the motorhome market by launching a whole new vehicle concept.

The all-new and exciting Lunar Vacanza camper car is the first of its kind on the UK market and combines the dual benefits of a roomy, four-person camper with an efficient, easy to manoeuvre, everyday family car – the ideal solution for those who want the best of both.

No larger than most family cars – at 4.4m long and 2.011m wide (with mirrors) – the new Lunar Vacanza has a similar footprint to a VW Beetle and can be easily garaged.

Built to the high standards of quality, luxury and safety one would expect from Lunar, the Vacanza has European Whole Vehicle Type Approval, has been fully crash tested, includes four belted seats and offers luxuries such as a reversing camera and air conditioning, making it a pleasure to drive.

The Lunar Vacanza camper car is the first of its kind on the UK market

The environmentally-friendly Vacanza is based on the Nissan NV200 Combi

Family

Based on the award-winning Nissan NV200 Combi, the Vacanza offers a host of features that will appeal similarly to both a young family and the seasoned camper van enthusiast. With class leading 135g/km CO2 emissions and 50-plus MPG, the Vacanza is one of the most economical and environmentally-friendly vehicles in the marketplace and road tax is just £120 a year.

The Vacanza offers supreme versatility. In the city, it's easy to park and provides plenty of room for shopping. Drive it to the countryside and the Vacanza affords comfortable living space suitable for a family thanks to the exclusive rotating front seats and well equipped kitchen with grill, fridge and three-burner hob.

To ensure a comfortable night's sleep for both adults and children, there is also an innovative, easy to store, double bed system plus fold-out beds inside the roof.

A bespoke tailgate awning will shortly be available that allows the Vacanza to dock at a site. This means that kit can be unloaded at the pitch, and frees up the Vacanza for everyday travel to and from the site.

Brian Mellor, chairman and CEO of Lunar, said: "It has been four years since we last launched a new model into the motorhome market and we are very excited to be returning with our brand new Vacanza camper car – a concept designed in response to the growing trend and a move towards more economical and smaller leisure vehicles.

"The Vacanza is not just a new vehicle; it is a whole new category. Our new model encompasses all the qualities you would expect from a Lunar product and has been designed as a multi-purpose leisure vehicle which is compact, economical and fuel efficient so can genuinely be used as both an everyday car as well as a holiday getaway.

"We are extremely excited about launching this product into a segment of the motorhome market that is continuing to grow significantly. Complementing our existing caravan range, we are confident we have a unique proposition and that the Vacanza represents a great opportunity for 2013," Brian added.

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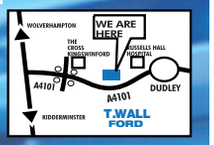

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Motoring

The Renault TwinRun looks stunning but the French car firm says sadly it will remain as just a concept

Renault unveils a stunner, but it's only a concept car

RENAULT has stunned the industry with a 316bhp V6-engined city car concept.

The Twin'Run concept, which wears a special one-off glass-polyester composite Twingo-esque bodyshell over a tubular steel racing chassis, is powered by a mid-rear-mounted 3.5-litre V6 taken from a Megane Trophy racing car.

The car led a three-car procession around the Monaco Grand Prix circuit, heading a Clio V6 driven by French Formula 1 driver Charles Pic, and a classic Maxi 5 Turbo driven by former rally champion Jean Ragnotti.

Thanks to a six-speed sequential gearbox, a weight of just 950kg and a phenomenal power-to-weight ratio of 333bhp per tonne, the rear-wheel drive Twin'Run sprints from 0-62mph in 4.5 seconds and is limited to a 155mph top speed.

The Twin'Run doesn't just have huge power and performance.

"A limited-slip differential ensures maximum traction when exiting corners, while a 57 per cent rearward weight balance is typical of mid-engined cars and should help guarantee driveability.

Ragnotti was involved in the final tuning of the chassis system of theTwin'Run.He shared his impressions while taking a look back at the R5.

"Following this first drive, I'd say that this is a sound car with a strong pedigree. It's easy to control.

"You can feel straight away that it's a sports car. In terms of balance and ride, it brings the R5 Turbo to mind to some extent," he says.

Despite vocal approval from fans of the Clio V6, Renault will not build a production version of the Twin'Run. Instead, the company says the concept's true purpose is to hint at the styling of its replacement for the Twingo.

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VAUXHALL

Eight fail to trouble scorers in defeat

Cleobury Mortimer 100, Stourbridge 18. Cleobury Mortimer won by 82 runs

A CATASTROPHIC batting performance, featuring no fewer than eight ducks, saw Stourbridge fourths lose despite firing out their opponents for just 100.

Skipper Daniel Hayward would have been in a good frame of mind after the home side were bowled out for the bare three figures.

No.10 Grant Carbines top- scored with 29 as Umar Khalid and Alex Colman took three wickets apiece.

But the wheels came off in reply as Stour suffered their first outright defeat of the season. Carbines added to his lustre with the bat by taking 5-4 off 10 overs while David Leach also took a nap hand of wickets. Extras top-scored with six.

Stourbridge 187, Cannock 188-7. Cannock won by three wickets

Stourbridge seconds opener Alex Spencer made 102, but finished on the losing side.

Skipper Mikesh Patel called correctly and decided to bat first. Spencer was well supported by teenage star Will Jennings with 31.

But three ducks and two run-outs did not serve Stour's cause. Fifth bowling change Daniel Wood took 4-17 runs off eight overs.

Cannock's opening batsmen Mike Stevenson (63) and Daniel Wood gave their side the perfect start.

Stour's bowlers kept a tight rein on the Cannock score but Connor Shingler (33) and Matt Davenport (19) paved the way for a home victory and Cannock, seven wickets down, reached the winning score with just three balls to spare.

Stourbridge 84, Claverley 88-7. Claverley won by three wickets

Put in to bat, the youngsters of Stourbridge thirds could muster only 84 .

Farkhan Ul Haq (15), Shaheel Khawar (16), Mathew Billington (17) and Lewis Wood (11 not out) were the only players to make any headway against good-quality bowling.

Stephen Haden and Ryan Mills took three wickets apiece.

Stourbridge gave the visitors a scare, taking seven wickets but opener Tom Grainger (15) and No.5 Simon Taylor (20 not out) saw their side home.

Skipper Alex Dent will be pleased with Khawar's all-round performance – he took 3-27 off eight overs to add to his batting performance.

Hagley continue on their winning run

HAGLEY kept up their winning streak in **Division One** firsts.

They beat Dominies by 90 runs, but rivals Astwood Bank were also victorious with a 40-run success against Pedmore.

Redditch slipped to fourth as they were held by Belbroughton while Pershore climbed to third by beating Oldswinford.

Worcester beat Bromyard, James Padden hitting 103 not out.

In the other match, Burghill pulled out of the relegation area by winning at Droitwich. Bromyard, Oldswinford and Pedmore are in danger of getting relegated.

Bewdley lost for the first time in

Worcester County Cricket League

Division Two, beaten by Harvington, for whom Dave Waters made 97. The men from Harvington leapfrogged Bewdley.

However, Enville, who made it to the top last week, are still five points ahead as they beat Coombs Wood in a thrilling match. Enville made the 266 needed for victory with just two wickets still standing in the penultimate over.

Colwall drew at Wormelow and Feckenham lost to Cookley. The other matches saw Netherton's Jack Green grab six Stourport wickets although his side had to settle for a draw. Paul Wyatt scored 89 for Rushwick as they thrashed Tenbury.

Division Three leaders Lye saw off winless Himley with 85 from Tan Hussain and now lead Harborne by 20 after the latter built on Baldev Raj's unbeaten 104 to beat Avoncroft by six wickets.

Alveley beat Alvechurch and Malvern lost at home to Birlingham. The other games included a big win for Himbleton over Romsley thanks to 121 not out from Dan Brace and 86 from Jon Critchlow and victory for Ross at Stourbridge Social, despite Ollie Stevens's six wickets for the them. Ross made 111 but Social only 64.

Old Vigornians had a fifth straight maximum 24 points in **Division Four** after beating Chaddesley Corbett thanks to 117 from Andy Bell and they lead Cleobury by a massive 34 points.

Cleobury themselves beat previously second-placed Bartestree and Old Hill closed the gap on Chaddesley by beating Kidderminster after 118 from Michael Tromans. At the other end of the table, Barnards Green held out for a draw at home to Bromsgrove and West Malvern got their first win by beating Halesowen.

Division Five leaders Claverley won at Stourbridge by three wickets and now head Martley by 32 points.

Martley scored at over eight an over in compiling 347-4 declared from 43 overs at Stourport, Matt Repton hitting 171 not out and Pat Bibby 143. But despite their 57 overs, they could claim only six Stourport wickets.

Kempsey won at Hallow and Brant Green beat Hanley Castle with Old Elizabethans and Astwood Bank drawing.

Watson's wickets lead way to victory

ASTWOOD BANK marched on in the Worcester County Cricket League seconds **Division One.**

Six wickets from Adam Watson helped them beat Pedmore to put them five points above Colwall who put Hagley down to fourth.

Belbroughton are third after a winning draw with Bewdley and Enville beat Coombs Wood, Rushwick beat Droitwich and Cookley drew at Pershore.

In **Division Two,** Netherton lost to Stourport and have been overtaken by both Redditch and Harborne who had a close fought draw.

Division Three leaders Lye had to settle for a draw at Burghill.

Avoncroft are fourth after they beat Harvington, despite six wickets from Jack Smout and Birlingham won despite a similar haul from Andy Croft for Malvern.

Another to take six was Himbleton's George Clifton and it was enough to snare victory at Romsley.

Threat

Division Four has a third leader in three weeks, Chaddesley taking over from Old Vigornians.

Halesowen's Tom Wickstead hit 117 as his side won by two wickets off the last ball at home to Barnt Green, and Kidderminster's Matt Davies made 82 not out of 127-1 beating Old Hill.

In **Division Five**, Cleobury's unbeaten run came under threat when Stourbridge dismissed them for 100 only for Grant Carbines (5-4) and Dave Leach (5-14) to skittle the visitors for the season's lowest score of 18.

Astwood Bank beat OEs and Kempsey beat Hallow while Hanley Castle and West Malvern and Stourport and Martley drew.

Division Six leaders Stone beat winless Coombs Wood. Second-placed Canon Frome kept up their pursuit by beating Netherton.

Redditch won for the first time, lifting themselves off the bottom with victory against Ombersley.

The **Division Seven** lead is contested by three wins out of three for both Droitwich and Rushwick who beat Belbroughton and Oldswinford respectively. Enville are third after defeating Pershore.

Division Eight joint leaders Hagley and Kidderminster met, with Hagley winning. Evesham beat Pedmore. In **Division Nine**, Cookley had a losing draw with Bromyard.

Late resistance is not enough to stop defeat

HIMLEY suffered a narrow defeat against Walsall in the Birmingham and District Premier Division.

They managed to bowl out the visitors for 187, despite an unbeaten 55 from Paul Wicker.

Five of the six Himley bowlers used took at least one wicket, with Ashfak Hussain's 3-40 leading the way. But in reply, although three top-order batsmen made a start, none could push on and support the 45 made by Jamie Harris.

Late-order resistance from Hussain (18) and Ryan Brown (15) was not enough and Himley fell 17 runs short, dismissed for 170.

Birmingham League

Kidderminster Victoria kept up their early season form by brushing aside Barnt Green by seven wickets.

The visitors were dismissed for 189 on Saturday, with Jon Wright taking 4-10, before Worcestershire's Matt Pardoe hit 88 as Kidderminster made 190-3.

Wolverhampton drew with Berkswell as Tom Fell's 117 guided Wolves to 224-5 before Andy Bowyer took 7-50 as Berkswell were restricted to 180-9.

West Bromwich Dartmouth claimed a losing draw at pacesetters Brockhampton.

Ben Stebbings (61) and former Dartmouth all-rounder Chris Boroughs (42) saw the Herefordshire side to 225-8 while skipper Kadeer Ali led the Dartmouth reply with 65 as they reached 173-9.

Wombourne lost by 19 runs to Knowle and Dorridge in a dramatic last-ball defeat.

Stephen Howard was dismissed on the final ball as Wombourne chased 206 and they were all out, despite Mark Fisher's valiant 72, for 187.

In Division One, **Smethwick** drew with Moseley after they hit 224-8 in response to Moseley's 260-8. Naqaash Tahir top scored with 71.

Old Hill demolished Ombersley by 114 runs after they hit 245-7 thanks to Nitesh Patel's 83. Ombersley were reduced to 8-4 but battled to 131. Nigel Davenport took 4-20.

Brewood beat leaders Dorridge by 35 runs despite only making 149-9. Dorridge were dismissed for 114.

Halesowen lost to Eastnor by 78 runs in Division Two after crashing to 105 all out in response to Eastnor's 183.

Fordhouses folded to 134 all out chasing Whitchurch's mammoth 273-2 despite an unbeaten 33 from Josh Giddins.

Shirt and Jackett that suit Wolves as a good fit

NEW Wolves head coach Kenny Jackett insists Wolves' players must mend the rift with fans for the club to move forwards.

Jackett admits there is a problem between members of the squad and the Molineux masses after the anger, embarrassment and frustration of successive relegations and huge under-achievement by the players.

Some of the big-name, high earners such as Roger Johnson and Jamie O'Hara have become symbols of the club's decline.

Wolves seem certain to cut their losses on the two big-money signings this summer and also others such as Kevin Doyle.

And Jackett conceded there was plenty of work to be done to heal the wounds and become a united club again.

"There is definitely a distance between the players and the fans," he said.

"That's the key to a successful club and that has to be there.

"There is no doubt that adjustments need to be made because that link isn't there between the supporters and the players. We need to get that link back."

Wolves' new head coach Kenny Jackett is unveiled at the club's training ground

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Hagley cruise to another success
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Sports Desk 01902 319461 e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

I have to win over the fans – Jackett

NEW Wolves head coach Kenny Jackett stepped into the job and immediately vowed to win over the fans.

The 51-year-old was unveiled at Compton as the club's first head coach on a 12-month rolling contract to succeed the sacked Dean Saunders.

Jackett gained just five per cent of 9,000 votes cast in a poll conducted by the *Chronicle's* sister paper, the *Express & Star*, which was topped by Owen Coyle on 45 per cent.

The former Swansea and Millwall boss, who has no immediate plans to bring in any backroom staff, accepts he has a battle to win over the Molineux masses after emerging top of a pile of 75 applicants for the job.

Respond

"Yes, but it's a challenge I embrace," said Jackett.

"I recognise I do have a battle to win over the fans. It's something I will be working hard on.

"It's the players' responsibility to put on a good performance and they lead the crowd.

"The crowd will respond to what they see on the pitch."

Wolves' record of back-to-back relegations and four managers in 15 months has seen no shortage of anger, embarrassment and frustration among the fanbase.

Jackett has been a boss for virtually all of his managerial career, apart from a three-year spell as Ian Holloway's assistant at QPR.

But he insists he is comfortable with the structure which sees him as the club's first head coach.

Glassboys to target darts

STOURBRIDGE FC are set to stage a darts exhibition night this evening.

Former world champion Bob Anderson will take to the oche at the Glassboys Bar in the club's Amblecote ground.

The 'Limestone Cowboy' won the crown 25 years ago.

He will face local dart players and members of the audience and share stories of his life in the darts world.

Compere for the evening is Paul Wilson and doors will open at 7.30pm and the show starts at 8pm.

For tickets see www.stourbridgedarts4.eventbrite.co.uk or call Jonathan Martin on 07971 979261 or send an email to mmsports group @aol.com

Pledge to find future British stars

Speedway

FORMER world speedway champion Jan O Pedersen has pledged to find British riders for the future – and the 1991 kingpin is ready to launch the British Speedway Academy.

It is a major initiative for the former Cradley Heath rider who still lives in the Black Country and was coach at National League Dudley last season.

The scheme, which is being run in line with the government's action sports Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence initiative, will be officially launched in the autumn.

Pedersen has been in successful talks with the Motor Sport Association (MSA) to secure the necessary funding and plans to have a pilot scheme up and running in September.

The move is a major breakthrough in a bid to find new homegrown talent.

Under the terms of the scheme it will be open to anyone between the ages of 16 and 18.

Both the Speedway Control Bureau and the British Speedway Promoters' Association have given the project their official approval.

Fans and sponsors can get involved with full details on the academic and practical courses plus the supporters' membership scheme at www.speedwayacademy.co.uk

Pedersen said: "As a Dane, I am obviously aware of how successful my nation has been in producing riders through youth training and taking them to world individual titles and World Team Cup victories.

"British speedway has needed a comparative structure for decades and I am pleased to play my part.

"I must stress that the scheme is not only open to riders in the sport's under- 16 championship, but riders from other motorcycle disciplines such as motocross and road racing."

Jan O Pedersen with a race jacket from his first year in Britain at the Cradley Heathens

STOUR FIGHT BACK AND EDGE VICTORY

Stourbridge 217, Attock 203. Stourbride won by 14 runs

STOURBRIDGE firsts produced their best all-round performance of the season so far to beat rivals Attock in a scintillating match that went to the wire, *writes Harilal Patel.*

Victory, by just 14 runs, came despite a ferocious innings of 141 from Attock opener Mohammed Qamar Khan.

Stourbridge's decision to bat first on a wicket that looked full of runs backfired spectacularly as they fell to 79-4.

Cricket

James Lawley (11) was out lbw to Safraz Ali, followed immediately by Audy Alexander (9) caught behind flashing outside off stump to the same bowler.

Skipper Richard Bradley was caught at midwicket off Imran Hamid for 12 after playing some nonchalant shots. Opener Alex Bingham resisted until he was lbw for 42 falling to Amjad Zaman.

Stour's fortunes in this Birmingham and District Division Two game were restored by the patience of Adam Lawley and the determination of Matt Bradley, who hit 92 runs in 16 overs.

Lawley curbed his natural aggressive instincts until Zanoor Khan lobbed one up and he was caught in the deep for 52.

Bradley went past his half-century but was caught for 52 off Khan and the tail folded. Spinner Zanoor Azam took 4-46.

In reply, Attock lost Arsalaan Mahmood for six, caught in the slips off Jitesh Patel.

Skipper Bradley opted for the leg spin of Alexander in the 13th over only for Mohammed Qamar Khan to take up the challenge by despatching the first two deliveries to the boundary. Patel removed Rawait Khan (15) with a low return catch, but Qamar and No.4 Asif Khan put on 60 in 17 overs.

Qamar's belligerent play was making boundary-laden inroads into the target, but Stour continued to take wickets at the other end.

Spinner James Wood got Asif Khan for eight; Alexander caught and bowled Waqar Saleem for one and then immediately bowled Mohammed Nadeem for a duck.

Teenager Ali Shah shattered the stumps of Amjad Zaman for seven to leave Attock, six wickets down, needing 70 runs off 12 overs.

Alexander had Attock skipper Safraz Ali controversially caught behind in the 49th over and the target came down to 30 runs off four overs with three wickets left.

Matt Bradley's first delivery was lifted to the deep offside boundary for six by Qamar, Richard Bradley stepping over the boundary rope as he tried to cling on.

But Matt Bradley's next ball produced the vital wicket as Qamar mishit a full toss to Patel at midwicket.

Bradley caught and bowled Zahoor Azam for a duck off his next delivery. Imran Hamid blocked to stop the hat-trick then skied the next delivery and was caught.

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Alicia, 17, is going for gold at summer games

HAGLEY teenager Alicia Bradshaw is going for gold this summer. The 17-year-old is in the final stages of training for the 2013 Special Olympics Great Britain National Summer Games.

Bradshaw will join almost 1,700 other athletes, coaches and supporters for the opening ceremony on August 28 at The Royal Crescent, Bath.

Then she will represent the West Midlands in four track and field events – 100m and 200m, 100m relay and long jump.

The athletics events at the games will be based at the high-performance facilities at the University of Bath. The games are organised by Special Olympics GB, the national charity that provides sports training and competition for young people and adults with learning disabilities.

Bradshaw, a student at The Glasshouse College, Stourbridge, trains with the Worcestershire team at The Ryland Centre, Bromsgrove. That squad will join other groups to form the West Midlands team.

Bradshaw, who recently competed at Stoke on-Trent as part of her build-up, said: "We have lots more competitions before the Summer Games – in Birmingham, Bangor and Eton.

Family

"It's something I really enjoy doing, it's great fun and I feel as if we are one great big family.

"Winning a medal in Bath would be fantastic, but I'm just looking forward to being there."

The three days of competition feature 12 disciplines including athletics, aquatics, gymnastics, tennis, golf, table-tennis and five-a-side football.

Medal success for Bradshaw in Bath could see her qualify for the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles in 2015.

Bradshaw receives a lot of support from family and friends while Bromsgrove firm The Logistics Business has become a 'Friend' of the Games following a donation to the national charity.

Managing director Rick Ballard said: "We are delighted to be supporting the Special Olympics GB National Summer Games. We follow Alicia's progress with great interest and wish her and the rest of the West Midlands squad the very best of luck. We will be in Bath to cheer them on."

For more information on the games, how to make a donation or how to get involved, visit their website www.bath2013.org.uk/

Alicia Bradshaw after winning gold in last year's Summer Games

Fullwell to face Jones in 'FA Cup'

AN all-West Midlands clash between Stourbridge's Nick Fullwell and Wolverhampton's Wayne Jones will come in the preliminary round of 'the FA Cup of darts'.

The 146-player PDC UK Open starts at the home of Bolton Wanderers, the Reebok Stadium, tonight in front of the Sky Sports cameras.

Jones is back in England after competing at last weekend's non-televised Austrian Darts Open, where he lost for a third time this year to Michael van Gerwen.

'The Wanderer' went down 6-1 to tournament winner and world No.2 van Gerwen in the second round on Saturday, after beating Campbell Jackson 6-4.

Now Jones and Fullwell could play three times in one night. The first to five legs winner will return to the oche to play either Royden Lam or Paddy Meaney.

The victor of that match will then play in their final game against either James Wade, Robbie Green or Birmingham's Matt Gallett in the second round.

Three open qualifiers from Wolverhampton are in action. Dean Stewart is in the preliminary round against Terry Dunford.

Wolverhampton duo Gavin Baker and Darrell Thorpe, both of Bilston, compete in the preliminary and first rounds respectively.

But that may not favour Thorpe. He will play the winner of the preliminary round tie between BDO world championship regular Stephen Bunting and Kirk Shepherd.

At the same stage, Baker will meet Tam Dymond.

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